

Lord Snooty and his Pals need each other

Tories? "I just can't stomach 'em," bellowed John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, yesterday. "So many snouts in the trough that even the pigs are complaining." The conference loved it. They loved him. He loved them. When Prescott speaks to a large Labour gathering you sense something rarely seen in a modern British politician: real affection for his audience.

Tony Blair is already beginning to snap at them or adopt a tone of baffled rationality, as one might when reasoning with a child. There is also something I have observed in him for the first time this week: a slight haughtiness. Paddy Ashdown seems afflicted by the juxtaposition between him-

self and his audience of an invisible row of footlights. John Major can look like a head boy keeping order, nervous of his authority. Depending on her mood, Margaret Thatcher might address us either as though we deserved a pat on the head, or a jolly good smack.

But Prescott did without needing to say it what Blair had failed to do though he did say it: Prescott implied: "I'm on your side." He read out a message from a small businessman asking him to give a plug for Betty's Pie Shop as business was not too good. Later he invited the ex-cruisingly embarrassed Betty on to the rostrum (it was her 40th birthday) and sang or rather howled - *Happy Birthday to You* while Betty



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

cringed, and tears filled delegates' eyes.

I watched Tony Blair sitting behind him: pale, tense, aloof, his face set and his hands clasped a little primly. He could almost have been wearing a top hat. He on the one hand, Prescott and his fellow-delegates on the other, reminded me of Lord Snooty and his Pals from *The BFG*.

But Mr Prescott was enjoying himself. "New Labour, New Computer!" he declared, adapting this year's slogan to his appeal for funds. It was a knockabout performance. He joked, at his own expense,

about gibes over his command of the English language. "I'll spell it out in sentences that even I can understand," he promised. Stumbling once over his speech and coming to a halt, he said: "I did that on purpose so as not to disappoint you." Mr Prescott also ventured triumphantly into statistical science. "If every one of you gets one new member, then we'd double the membership!"

The Winter Gardens warmed to him more than they had warmed on Tuesday to the man now behind him.

But I reminded myself that Tony Blair, though he had been heard uncertainly, was applauded in the rafters when he finished.

There was no mistaking that applause. They did not quite understand Mr Blair and they were not sure they liked him but they knew they needed him. It reminded me of a remark of Ann Leslie's, on radio, to Robert Robinson: "I love it when you talk like that. It reminds me what we lost when they closed the grammar schools." As Prescott stirred the conference to an emotional finale, it struck me that Lord Snooty needs his Pals but his Pals need Lord Snooty, too.

It was by one of those unlucky mischances that, as the platform party sang and

embraced, Cherie Blair should have leant to kiss her husband just as he moved his head. She pecked into his air and nearly fell over. Plainly the kiss had not been rehearsed. Everything else had. The festivities went like clockwork, to the backing of an excellent trad jazz band. Catching sight of Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody MP dancing in the aisles was a moment to treasure. But even during the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, Blair looked uncomfortable. Is that not, though, the ultimate in subliminal image control? Looking uncomfortable in a Scottish sing-song is a potent way to win sympathy from middle England.

Prescott speech, page 1
Politics, pages 12 and 13

Blood-test cases may be quashed

Thousands of motorists found guilty of drink-driving offences since March 1984 may have their convictions quashed because police did not follow the correct procedures over blood tests, the High Court has ruled. Two judges rejected an attempt by Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, to uphold the convictions of seven motorists because she feared overturning them would "open the floodgates" for other drivers.

Lord Justice McCowan, sitting with Mr Justice Gage, said the convictions against the seven could not stand because a number of motorists had already been cleared in similar cases. It would be unfair not to treat the seven in the same way. Police in Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales had failed to ask motorists when taking a blood sample whether there was any medical reason why they could not take the sample. A CPS spokeswoman said: "Courts have ruled that if motorists are not given the opportunity to answer this question, the procedure for taking blood samples is fatally flawed. The police are the ones who have not used the correct wording."

Cyprus soldiers charged

Three British soldiers based in Cyprus were formally charged yesterday with the kidnapping and murder last month of Louise Jensen, a Danish tour guide, and conspiring to rape her. Rifleman Alan Ford, 26, from Birmingham, Jeff Parnell, 23, from Warley, West Midlands, and Justin Fowler, 26, from Falmouth, Cornwall, all serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, were remanded in custody for seven days.

Girl's family to sue

The east London family who waited almost an hour for an ambulance while their child lay dying accused health services yesterday of a "chain of neglect" and said they were planning legal action. Nasima Begum, 11, lay screaming as her family pleaded with ambulance control staff for help during four desperate telephone calls. An ambulance arrived 53 minutes later and Nasima died in the Royal London Hospital.

GCSE marking errors

Errors in the marking of GCSE papers are likely to mean that a north London school is placed misleadingly low in the Government's examination league tables to be published next month. More than 100 English papers taken by girls at John Kelly Girls' Technology College, Brent, are being re-marked by the University of London Examinations and Assessment Council. Among a sample of 15 scripts, 12 girls had grades raised.

Awol soldier arrested

A soldier on leave from the Parachute Regiment serving in Northern Ireland has been arrested in New Zealand accused of trying to extort \$4 million from a Dutch businessman. Lance Corporal Nicholas Brown, who was posted as absent without leave yesterday after failing to return to his regiment, was arrested with another Briton, Bryan Cooper, 45, a private investigator from Gloucester.

Journalist in court

A Spanish motoring journalist appeared in court yesterday charged with killing an elderly man while test-driving the new Jaguar XJ6 in Scotland last week. Javier Del Castillo Jarabo, 37, of Madrid, is accused of causing the death by dangerous driving of Jack Munro, 74, a crofter from Kinlochbervie, Highland. Señor Jarabo was freed on bail and allowed to return to Spain. No date was set for his next appearance.

Police dig boy's garden

Police searching for Daniel Handley, the nine-year-old boy missing in east London, are expected to dig up the garden of his home and the house where he used to live at the weekend as hopes fade of finding him alive. The disclosure coincided with the discovery of Daniel's silver BMX bicycle, which was found abandoned by two teenagers close to his home in Beckton. Daniel has not been seen since last Sunday.

Wine and food festival

Attendances at the International Festival of Fine Wine and Food, sponsored by *The Times*, were sharply up yesterday despite the London Underground strike and the withdrawal of the Tube service to Kensington Olympia. Today's programme includes demonstrations by Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook, and Antony Worrall Thompson of *dell'Ugo*, plus a public demonstration debut by Michel Roux Jr.

Tube runs despite strike

Efforts by the RMT rail union to cripple London Underground services in support of a pay claim failed when three-quarters of trains ran. All 270 Tube stations were open and several lines, including the Metropolitan and the Jubilee, operated a normal service. Waterloo and City Line was the only line closed. The union executive will meet on Monday but there will be no strikes next week as unions must give seven days' notice of action.

Libel case over Venables

Alan Sugar, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, and Tony Berry, the deputy chairman, yesterday launched a libel action against Michael Joseph Ltd, publishers of *Venables* - *The Autobiography*, by Terry Venables, the England coach and manager. They claim that they are libelled in the book and seek damages and a ban on further publication of certain passages. They have already started a libel action against Mr Venables.

Porter claims bias ahead of 'homes for votes' hearing

By IAN MURRAY

DAME Shirley Porter, the former leader of Westminster City Council, claimed yesterday that the authority's auditor was so biased against her that he could never reach a fair judgment in the "homes for votes" affair.

John Magill, the auditor, said in a provisional report in January that Dame Shirley and nine other council representatives were guilty of "disgraceful, improper gerrymandering" by running a designated homes sale policy. They are accused of wilful misconduct by selling council houses to boost the Conservative vote in marginal wards, at the expense of the homeless.

Yesterday, at a special preliminary inquiry which he himself granted, Mr Magill had to sit in judgment on his decision to make his announcement on a televised news conference. Anthony Scrivener, QC, counsel for

Dame Shirley, asked Mr Magill to disqualify himself from any further involvement in the case. Mr Magill said he would announce his decision at the end of next week.

Mr Scrivener claimed that the language used by the auditor in his provisional report showed he was too biased to reach an objective conclusion. A public hearing of the defence against his findings opens on October 17. Dame Shirley and the other council representatives involved do not want him to preside.

Mr Scrivener told Mr Magill that the strong language he had used during the televised news conference, disclosing his provisional findings, made it virtually impossible for him to come to a different conclusion in a final report.

"Could you really now say that you were wrong?" Mr Scrivener asked. "It would be

the biggest retreat since some experts said the Hitler diaries were invalid."

As auditor, Mr Scrivener said, he had to act in a quasi-judicial way. "You must keep an open mind until all the evidence and argument have been heard. You never see a judge appear on television halfway through a hearing to express his provisional views."

Mr Scrivener said the news conference appeared to have been stage-managed. "Slating in public your views and findings in this way was not only inappropriate but it makes it difficult for you ever to withdraw those views," he said. "If you do you will look extremely foolish to the public. The pressures of the public will bear down upon you when you make your final decision."

Mr Scrivener complained that Mr Magill claimed to have conducted "the most thorough, comprehensive, wide-ranging review ever done by a local government auditor". He had said that careful considerations were given to the submissions of those involved, "but I don't know when you did that because I haven't even made them yet".

Andrew Arden, QC, representing the objectors to the designated homes policy who called in the auditor, said the hearing was "frivolous, vexatious and entirely redundant".

He said that Mr Magill's inquiry had revealed very serious illegalities which had ongoing effects on families trapped in bed and breakfast accommodation.



Beverley Hurrell looking businesslike, left, and wearing her usual casual style

Glasses open the eyes of sceptical businessmen

By A STAFF REPORTER

MEN may not make passes at girls who wear glasses, but they do, it seems, do business with them.

Beverley Hurrell, a 21-year-old hairdresser, found her casual dress code undermined her plans to set up her own business after the salon where she worked closed. She was, she found, too young and silly to lease a shop in the opinion of East Anglian landlords.

The next time Miss Hurrell saw a shop she wanted to rent, she conducted negotiations with the landlord, solicitors and estate agents in a long

cream skirt and pale pink jacket and carried a black leather briefcase. She also wore the glasses she usually keeps for watching television.

Within weeks she had taken over premises in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and set up Aristocats. She had also secured a £1,690 grant from the Suffolk Training and Enterprise Council.

The salon, which opened in March, has up to 100 customers a week, employs one full-time and one freelance stylist and has a projected annual turnover of £28,000.

Miss Hurrell said: "I normally wear casual clothes like

trousers, leggings, jumpers, shirts and waistcoats for my work. But when I wanted to set up my own salon I discovered that those sort of clothes give the wrong impression for business."

"I spotted what I thought were ideal premises but the landlord seemed convinced that I was just an airhead bimbo and did not stand a chance of succeeding. I decided that I had to do something to change my image."

Peter Alder, of Mid Anglia Enterprise Agency, which authorised the grant, said: "Business is all about presenting a professional image."

Oxford campaign raises £340m

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

OXFORD University has wound up the most successful fundraising campaign ever undertaken by a British educational institution after exceeding its target of £340 million for academic developments.

The university was aiming to raise £220 million in five years when it launched the Campaign for Oxford in 1988. But it was so successful that the target was raised and the period extended within three years. Dr Peter North, the

Vice-Chancellor, said that winding up the formal campaign merely marked the "end of the beginning" for the university's development activities. Fundraising will continue through a smaller development programme.

A spokeswoman said the university was consolidating its activities but would continue to seek sponsors for a number of major projects, as well as launching further initiatives in due course. Details of the new programme are yet to be finalised.

Already the money raised has funded 117 academic

posts, including 34 professorships. The Bodleian Library and Ashmolean Museum have been modernised, and a language centre, Japanese institute, pharmacology and computing buildings erected.

Smaller projects have included the opening of the university's first two nurseries, resurfacing the running track and the establishment of scholarships for British and overseas students.

Among the largest donations have been £30 million (about £20 million) from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company for pharmacology, £6

million from the Rhodes Trust mainly to finance academic posts, \$8 million (£5.3 million) from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for continuing education, and £3 million for the English faculty from News International, owners of *The Times*. Oxford was the first British university to concentrate on raising large sums from its alumni and associated organisations. The total of £341,209,145 accumulated through personal and corporate donations far outstrips those that have followed.

Leading article, page 21

Enid Blyton's letters offer glimpse of writing process

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

UNPUBLISHED letters of Enid Blyton which offer a rare insight into the author who gave children the Noddy and Famous Five books, are to be offered for sale.

Written in the 1950s to a professor of psychology who was researching imagination and thought, the letters reveal for the first time her unusual writing methods.

In a series of nine letters, spanning 46 sheets Blyton (1897-1968) described how she saw her characters in a "visual camera" while her eyes were shut. It was, she said, like a private cinema screen whose images she would copy down on her portable typewriter with her eyes closed.

"It's a 3-dimensional screen," she explained, "complete with sound, smell or taste - & feeling." In one letter, she wrote: "Where I am lucky is that I have such easy access to my imagin-

ation... I do not have to wait for inspiration as so many do. I have merely to 'open the sluice gates' and out it all pours with no effort."

She was writing from Beaconsfield to Peter McKellar in Aberdeen, responding to a series of questions he put to her for his book, *Imagination and Thinking*.

From his home in Yorkshire, Professor McKellar recalled: "I asked all about her waking fantasy, her dreaming fantasy and her half-awake sleep - hypnogenic or pre-sleep imagery, which in the drowsy state is usually visual but sometimes auditory. She was very much interested in this. Her stories seem to have emerged originally from hypnogenic imagery."

The letters will be sold on November 9 at Woolley and Wallis in Salisbury, Wiltshire.



Blyton: "It pours out with no effort"

Correction

Contrary to a report (September 28) Katharine Hamnett declined nomination for the designer of the year category in the Lloyds Bank British fashion awards. We apologise for the error.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Tomorrow Times readers can try *The Sunday Times* at the special price of only 70p. That makes the combined price of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* this weekend just £1. Readers of *The Times* who wish to take advantage of this offer should cut out this voucher, fill in name and address and take it to their newsagent tomorrow. If you get your papers through an account with your newsagent, you should hand your voucher in by October 16 at the latest.

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Baby-faced guru initiated a well-heeled clientele into the free-sex, gun-toting madhouse of his cult

Jouret was a messiah to the middle classes

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

TALL, handsome and charismatic, Luc Jouret, the leader of the Order of the Solar Temple cult, matched the profile of the paranoid "messiah" who have marched their flock to doom in recent years. He had a bonus, however: as a doctor from a good Belgian family, he could work the luxury end of the market, attracting the well-heeled and their funds in return for redemption from the ecological armageddon about to befall mankind.

While the Rev Jim Jones of Georgetown and David Koresh of Waco preyed on the social margins, Jouret, 47, a cultivated homoeopath who styled himself a universal time-traveller, pulled in a middle class clientele in a career that spanned all of French-speaking Europe and Canada.

The presence of the respected mayor of Richelieu, Quebec, and a high official of the Canadian finance ministry among the dead in Switzerland testified to the hypnotic charms of the baby-faced guru.

"He was a terribly handsome guy who used and abused his title of homoeopathic doctor," Brigitte, a former disciple from Brittany, said yesterday. "On one hand, he handed out innocent advice as simple as walking barefoot in the grass or eating freshly-



Rev Jones attracted less affluent members

cut green salad. On the other he would insist that only those who were in his sect would be saved from the imminent apocalypse and would organize black masses for his chosen ones.

Jouret's prime skill, say his apostates, was his ability to filter his faithful from his blander teaching on the feel-good psychology of the New Age and lead them to the successively darker chambers of his mystical world, ultimately initiating them into the free-sex, gun-toting madhouse of his Order of the Solar Temple.

In a typically polished press

release sent to the media after the massacre, Jouret defined the exalted fate to which he, as an "elder brother of the Rose-Cross" had led them. "We leave this Earth to find, in all lucidity and in all freedom, a Dimension of Truth and the Absolute." He did not, apparently, deem it worth making the trip with them.

Jouret was admired for his intelligence, but the demonic side was not apparent to his friends and family until he had already established himself as a homoeopath in the late 1970s.

His brother Bernard, director of Belgium's National Geographic Institute, recalled yesterday that his university days at the Free University in Brussels were marked by the ferment of mystical and political thinking of the late 1960s. Jouret flirted with a shadowy communist student group.

"There was nothing to suggest what he did later," he said. "He was very active physically and mentally. He was curious about the future, the cosmos, the big bang, he read a lot. He was a born leader. He was an officer in the army commandos when he did his military service. As a student, he had no interest in religion."

Marc Brunson, a Belgian veterinary surgeon and col-

league at the time, said: "He was an especially brilliant guy. He already acted as if he was a guru. He seemed to be coming off the rails. You had to have a certain degree of intelligence to escape from him."

His brother, said Bernard Jouret, was "rebellious against the medical establishment", pinning the start of his conversion to the darker realm to the period when he became interested in Indian mysticism.

Establishing himself as a successful lecturer in the "joie de vivre through homoeopathy", he moved to the Ardennes in early 1981, marrying a Frenchwoman who bore him a son who died four days after birth. His lectures at the time warned against the dangers of sects.

In 1984, he went to Switzerland to found his "International Organisation of the Chivalric Solar Tradition", styling himself the Grand Master. Later he discovered fertile ground in the New Age movement and moved to Quebec.

In 1993, after two sect members were accused of murdering the Canadian minister of public security, a long police investigation ended with a minor firearms conviction.

Britons dead, page 1



Luc Jouret: as a student in Brussels "he already acted as if he was a guru"

Canadian co-founder was sect financier

By Bill Frost

JOSEPH Di Mambro has been described as co-founder of the Order of the Solar Temple with Luc Jouret. The 70-year-old French Canadian owned the house outside Montreal at Morin Heights, where two charred bodies were found last Tuesday.

His wife, Jocelyne, owned two of the chalets at Granges-sur-Salvan in Switzerland where 25 corpses were recovered the following day. She was also a leading member of the order and thought to be in charge of "commercial activities".

Nicknamed "The Little Napoleon", Mr Di Mambro had in his long dalliance with mystical organisations once been a member of the Rosicrucian Order. In the 1960s, he created his own Sect of the Pyramids. Mr Di Mambro and Jouret were last seen in Salvan on Tuesday at 4pm.

Mr Di Mambro has been described as a dictatorial character who was well off. He was said to be the sect's financier. The Swiss newspaper *La Presse* said Jouret, Di Mambro, Jocelyne and a fourth influential member of the sect, Camille Pilet, held a lengthy meeting at a Montreux restaurant on September 30 and that Miss Pilet had since put herself under police protection.

Village haunted by cult leader who held court in cafés

FROM BILL FROST IN GRANGES-SUR-SALVAN

AT THE Café des Alpes in Salvan there is a table no longer used by diners. It was where Luc Jouret regularly held court and preached his gospel of fulfilment through sexual pleasure and freedom to follow the "golden path".

Alexandra, the 21-year-old waitress who served him, seems still slightly under the Jouret spell, as she calls it — even though she will never forget last Wednesday, the smell of smoke and the sound of sirens from the mountain-side above.

Jouret gave Alexandra his own copy of a book of Chinese poetry. He even pointed out verses that she should read and learn. She still guards it jealously, even though she now knows the man she once regarded so highly is in all probability a mass murderer who would have drawn her into his web if he could.

Nelly Decaliet, the beautiful and elegantly-dressed owner of the Café des Alpes, came under Jouret's spell too. He would talk, she would listen — the couple became friendly.

However, Jouret broke his own spell the night last May when he began talking about the Order of the Solar Temple. Nelly told him she disapproved of cults and all they stood for. Jouret's manner changed abruptly. He finished his meal, paid his bill, and left Café des Alpes, never to return.

Although frequently seen at Cheiry, where 23 of his followers died in the early hours of last Wednesday, Granges-sur-Salvan was Jouret's real Swiss home. He owned at least one chalet there, and rented two others. He had recently applied for citizenship, giving the village as his place of residence. His followers — Swiss, French and Canadian — were, according to the people of Salvan, a "strangely private and silent lot". Certainly they

would smile and be the model of politeness when they came to the village to shop.

The baker had his doubts though. "They seemed to be on a different wavelength. After a while you felt yourself shiver — some of us thought they were 'like' zombies," he recalled.

When the last of the bodies was brought from the smouldering chalets at Granges as darkness fell on Wednesday night, the rescue workers too seemed like zombies. Later in a bar they drowned their shock in calvados and cognac.

Jouret was in the same bar last Saturday, deep in conversation with a "strikingly beautiful" blonde woman. Then the bar phone rang, a long distance call from a man with a German-Swiss accent asking for Jouret urgently.

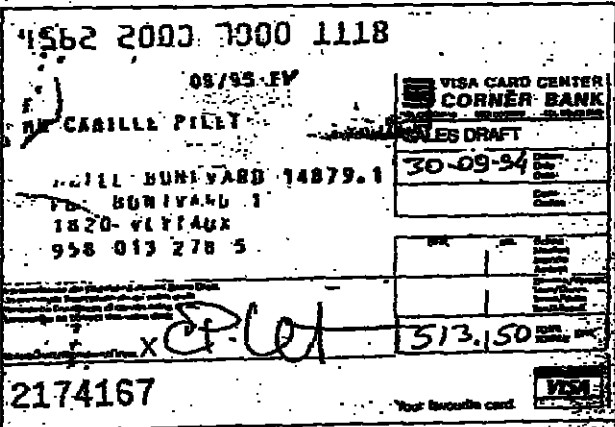
After a brief conversation he returned to his companion. Then the pair left the bar and drove down to the chalets in their jeep. With the benefit of hindsight, the chronology of the tragedy now becomes clear. The Order of the Solar Temple was beginning to fall apart, in Canada where the cult began and in Switzerland where Jouret had sought ref-

uge after a brush with the Montreal police over a weapons possession charge.

Anger over Jouret's profligate spending and increasingly bizarre behaviour had driven a wedge between him and his once pliant acolytes. Cult followers were also at odds with their founding father, Joseph Di Mambro, who fled Jouret is believed to have fled Switzerland after Wednesday's mass killing.

Pascal Henry, manager of the Hotel Bonivard in Vevyvaux-Montreux, mid-way between Salvan and Cheiry where 23 other cult members were found dead, said nine of the group met there regularly and dined in a private room there on Friday.

As the hunt for Jouret and Di Mambro was intensified, village children from Salvan laid flowers at the burnt-out chalets where 25 people died. Jouret's presence still haunts the little village as it haunts Cheiry and all of Switzerland. The old lady fetching her loaf from the bakery said: "I pray to God he died with them. If he survived what is to prevent this nightmare happening again somewhere else?"



Receipt for the Hotel Bonivard, where the cult met, signed by a cult member on September 30

Final letter admits suicide

By Charles Bremner

THE followers of Luc Jouret's Order of the Solar Temple joyfully killed themselves to escape the wickedness of mankind and the imminent apocalypse and travel to a better world, according to a letter posted to the media on the morning they died.

The letter also accused the Canadian and other authorities of committing the group's "collective murder" by persecuting them.

The letter, addressed to "Lovers of Justice", said: "We have now freed ourselves of a burden which, day by day, was becoming unbearable. It is with an

unfathomable Love, an ineffable joy and without any regret that we leave this world."

The 19 printed pages, couched in the jargon of medieval orders, the occult, astrology and environmentalism, were posted in Zurich on the morning after the deaths of Jouret's followers in Switzerland. Investigators said they assume the manifestos were posted by surviving members and noted that they shed no light on the circumstances of the deaths.

Experts said the apocalyptic language, obsession with the environment and persecution and belief in membership of a chosen

elite was in keeping with Jouret's doctrine and most other extreme cults.

The letter complains at length about what it calls the persecution of the movement by the Canadian authorities. It ends with a warning: "The race is going irreversibly towards its self-destruction. Nature in its entirety is turning against those who have abused it, corrupted it and profaned it. We will not take part in the annihilation of the human reign..."

Another, 30-page letter typed on a word processor was sent to Jean-François Mayer, a Swiss historian and author of several books on sects.

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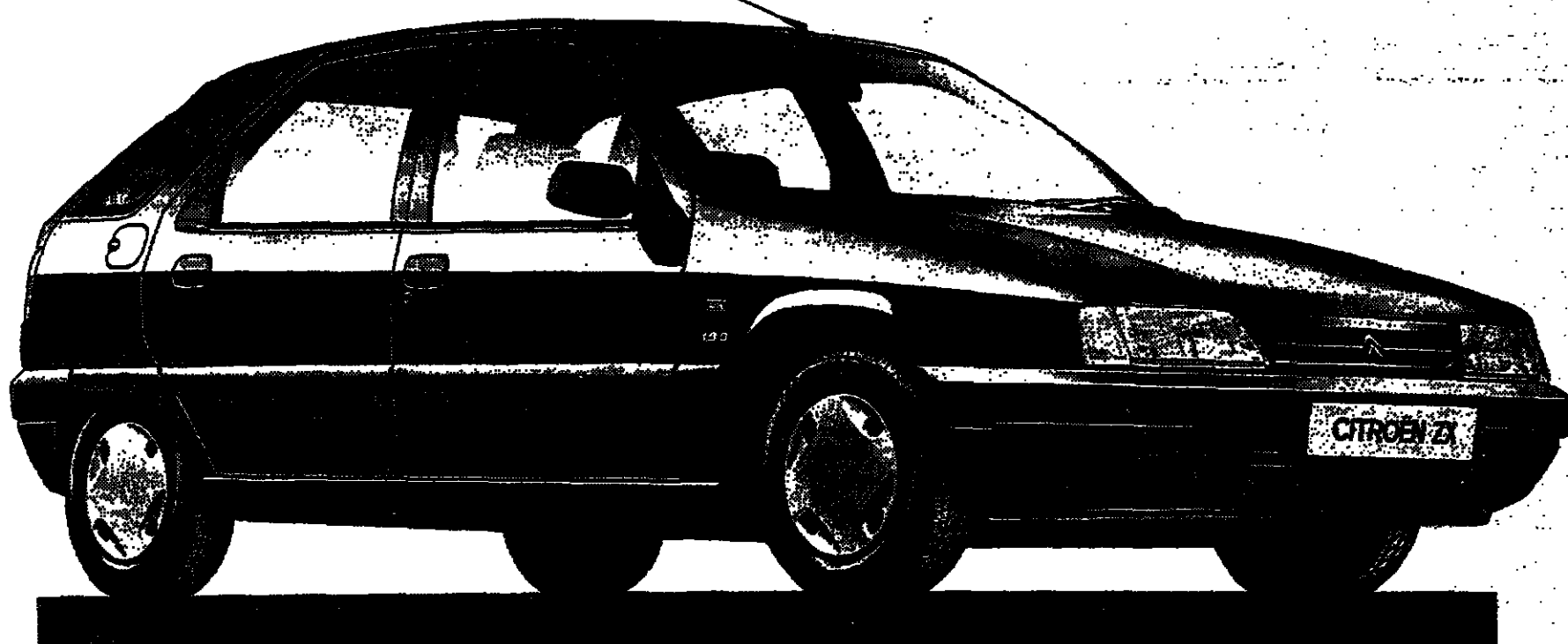
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Neighbour contemplates victory but opponent prepares for another court fight

Grandfathers refuse pact over cypress hedge feud

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE fast-growing cypress hedge that led to a bitter and costly dispute between two grandfathers yesterday cast a long, gloomy shadow over what Lady Justice Butler-Sloss called "a very nice garden".

Until he attended the Appeal Court this week, the highest accolade paid to Michael Jones for his collection of fuchsias, lobelias and dwarf conifers was a cup and shield awarded by the Bourville Trust.

Yesterday the retired school teacher was contemplating victory in the latest round of his 15-year feud with Charles Stanton, 86, a retired engineer, over his pruning of the evergreen leyland cypress hedge, which at its peak reached 35ft.

The legal battle, which will resume in Birmingham County Court, is likely to cost the two men £50,000.

The dispute has brought acrimony to the Bourville estate in Selly Oak, Birmingham, site of the model 19th-century village created by the philanthropist George Cadbury for his workers. In 1971, Mr Stanton planted the hedge of cypressus leylandii, a foot inside a boundary fence between the two gardens.

"I didn't notice because they were tiny little things," Mr Jones, 66, said. "By 1975 they had grown to about 10ft and were beautiful trees. In the drought summers we were



Stanton: "It is not over yet"

watering them for him and keeping them alive. They looked like a fairy-tale picture. Bloody fools we were."

By 1979, the trees were 35ft high. "They were an immense nuisance," Mr Jones said. "They were so tall they were excluding sunlight from my garden... but above all there was the depressing winter gloom."

During wintry gales Mr Jones would be terrified that the trees would topple over on to his three-bedroom home 35ft from the hedge. Mr Stanton agreed to reduce the hedge, but it grew again. "In 1989 I did the ultimate."

Mr Jones said. "I took about 5ft off the top. I had to do them gradually because I'm elderly, arthritic, fat and for that matter bald. When I took one off there was great rage. They called the police."

There followed a battle of wit and endurance between the neighbours. Mr Jones said he was sprayed with a water hose and that he responded by making down lightning raids on the hedge top.

At the lowest point, Mr Stanton's son, Paul, Terry Stanton, ended up in court after a violent encounter with Mr Jones. Mr Stanton eventually took his neighbour to court claiming £32,000 compensation for trespass and damage to the hedge during the uninvited pruning.

After several hearings Birmingham County Court ruled that Mr Jones had the right to trim the trees as they constituted a party between the properties.

On Thursday, Mr Stanton's appeal was refused by Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, sitting with Mr Justice Millett.

Mr Stanton said he planned to pursue the claim for damages on the grounds that Mr Jones "mutilated" his trees.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said she would be grateful if the case could be heard within a reasonable time. "These two elderly gentlemen should really bring their unhappy dispute to an end as soon as possible."

Jones indeed has the right to trim the trees, as they constituted a party hedge between the properties.

Mr Jones said: "These hedges grow too tall too quickly. The only way to control them is like Lord Justice Millett said yesterday. He said he keeps his at 10ft. It's bloody ridiculous that a very famous judge like Lady Justice Butler-Sloss should have to consider a hedge."

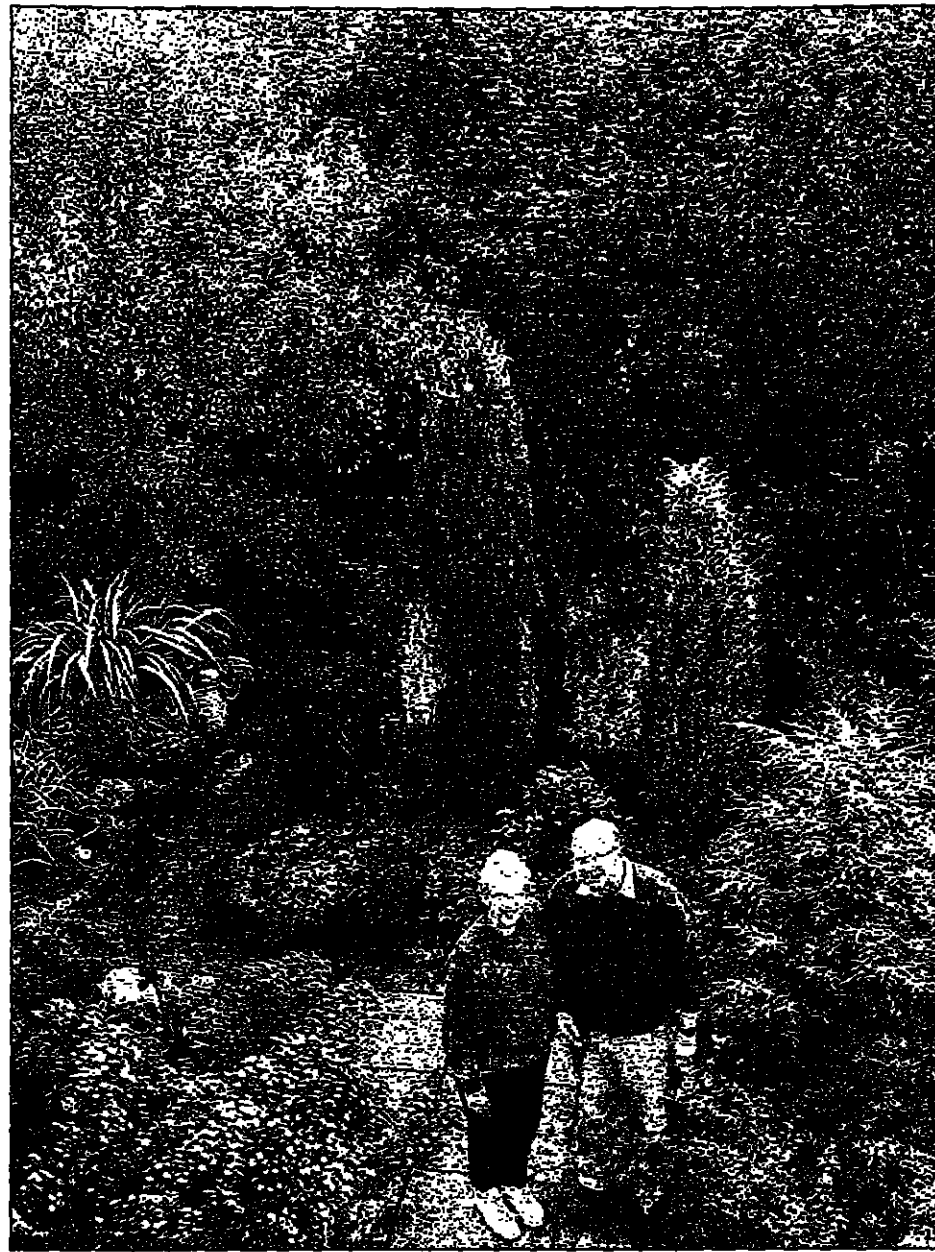
Michael Gillespie, Mr Stanton's solicitor, said yesterday that they would consider the written judgment before deciding on their next move.

Mr Stanton said yesterday: "It's not over yet, nothing has been decided. This is a ridiculous case."

He declined to give his version of events, even when informed that Mr Jones had provided a full account of the feud. "He would," Mr Stanton said. "He's after all the publicity he can get."

Even if Mr Jones wins the final hearing, Mr Stanton may have the last laugh.

Peering through the 8ft-thick hedge, which has regrown to 22ft from the bottom of his garden yesterday, Mr Jones saw a glimpse of the future beyond his worst nightmares. Planted a few yards behind the celebrated hedge is a line of young, healthy growing leyland cypress trees, threatening to become a new nuisance Mr Jones will be powerless to trim.



Michael and Maureen Jones in their garden at Selly Oak in Birmingham yesterday with Mr Stanton's hedge looming behind them

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Solicitor 'bullied into theft'

A SOLICITOR who pleaded guilty to nine charges of theft from client accounts totalling almost £1 million was jailed for four years yesterday by Liverpool Crown Court.

The court had been told that the career of William Palmer, 55, was wrecked when he was "bullied and badgered" into paying Irene Ashton, hundreds of thousands of pounds after a blunder made when handling her late husband's estate.

Martin Steiger, QC, for the defence, said that Mrs Ashton's accountant, Michael Hadley, had also been involved in the chicanery and that he was now living in exile in Gibraltar. Palmer, a partner in a law firm based in Preston, Lancashire, was struck off the solicitors' register in 1993.

Judge Wickham said: "When a solicitor puts his hand in the till and takes clients' money it is the greatest possible breach of trust."

Sex selection fails to bear daughters

By ANJANA ANJANA

THE British Medical Association has renewed its warning to couples not to pin their hopes on sex selection fertility treatment because it has not been scientifically proven. The warning comes after the medical director of five boys who spent nearly £2,000 trying to have a daughter, gave birth to another son.

Ken Berryman, 50, from Southampton, paid for his wife Cheryl's treatment at the London Gender Clinic with his redundancy money after losing his job as a lorry driver. The clinic, based in a terraced house in Hendon, north London, claims a 70 per cent success rate for girls. Dr Peter Liu, its director, said the technique had been modified recently to give better results.

Mrs Berryman, 31, gave birth to Grant Elliott Peter on Thursday at the Princess Anne Maternity Hospital in

Abbey National customers have their cake and eat it

The proof of the pudding, as we all know is in the eating

As far as Abbey National's Triple Growth Bond is concerned the huge demand from new investors since the Bond was launched to the general public on 1 October confirmed what 1000's of Abbey's existing customers have already discovered - the availability of a high, guaranteed rate of return that does not require funds to be locked away for a lengthy period is a very tempting recipe.

Perhaps the most important reason why the Bond has been so successful is not just because it guarantees high, stepped rates but because it has a special ingredient - the Bond can actually reflect increases in bank base rates. This means investors can sit back and relax, comfortable in the knowledge that they are not missing out on rising rates elsewhere.

Now that's appetising! After all some fixed rate savings accounts may have looked good at the start but have proved a disappointment to those who need a decent return on their capital and who are left behind by a rising trend of interest rates.

So unlike other traditional fixed rate accounts on offer,

when the Chancellor increased the bank base rates in September, Abbey National responded by increasing the return on year one of the Bond by 0.25% to 7.55%. That's the icing on the cake guaranteed by Triple Growth Bond.

Abbey National has only been able to construct such an attractive package by restricting the offer to a limited number of investors. In the first week since its public launch the Bond has proved overwhelmingly popular and availability is fast reducing.

The Bond matures on 1 November 1997. Between now and then, the guaranteed rate of return will increase each year. This means peace of mind because whatever happens on the Stock Market roller-coaster or in the economy as a whole,

your savings are guaranteed to develop their earning power. In these uncertain times, this sort of security is invaluable.

The unique bonus works in the following way: for every 0.50% rise in the bank base rate, the interest rate offered by the Bond will increase by 0.25%. A total bonus of 0.50% is possible each year. And remember, if the base rate falls your rates won't. No other product offers this additional security.

This performance is available in return for a commitment to invest for only three years, a period far shorter than with other schemes.

In other words, as far as getting the best return on your money is concerned, you can have your cake and eat it.

Some investors will have held off investing in the Triple Growth

Bond because, in order to do so they would have to transfer money from an existing fixed-term savings account and possibly suffer an interest rate penalty.

They may be thinking that although the Bond is a mouth watering investment proposition, it is something they simply cannot hope to get a taste of.

This is an entirely understandable fear. But with the Triple Growth Bond's high returns, even after taking into consideration the interest rate penalties associated with accounts on offer from other companies, it may still make sense to move money to the Bond.

Full details of Triple Growth Bond rates compared to the others currently available from other institutions are shown in the table below.

This means that anyone looking for a good, guaranteed and, above all adaptable return should seriously consider the

Triple Growth Bond.

Rates of interest are one thing, but it is also important for many savers to have ready access to the interest they earn. When designing the Bond, Abbey National was careful to ensure that it suited as many customers as possible, so interest can therefore be taken either annually or monthly.

This means that those who rely on their capital to pay for their living expenses can enjoy regular payments to fit in with their budgets.

As we have said, the Bond is only available on a limited basis and is being offered on a first come, first served basis, so if you want to get your teeth into a unique deal that is difficult to beat, act today. Call Abbey National Direct on 0800 100 801, quoting ref. 17/6 or call into your local Abbey National branch.

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Halifax	Stepped Income Reserve	22/9/94	7.50	7.75	8.25	5 year stepped rate
National Savings	Pensioner's Bond I	21/1/94	7.00	7.00	7.00	5 year fixed flat rate
	Pensioner's Bond II	20/9/94	7.50	7.50	7.50	5 year fixed flat rate
Leeds Permanent	Fixed Rate Bond (4)	7/10/94	7.60	7.60	-	2 year fixed flat rate
			7.85	7.85	-	
National & Provincial	Escalator Option	3/8/94	6.50	6.75	7.50	5 year stepped rate
			7.00	7.25	8.00	

The Bond will mature on 1 November 1997. Interest will be paid gross to eligible non-taxpayers who register with us as required by the Inland Revenue. Otherwise it will be paid net of basic rate income tax (currently 25%). You may be able to reclaim this tax from the Inland Revenue. The minimum investment amount is £10,000. No additional deposits will be accepted after the Bond is opened. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. No withdrawal or closures may be made from the Bond before 1.11.95. Certain criteria must apply before the bonus will be paid. See leaflet for terms and conditions. Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6AL.

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Archbishop speaks out in Turnbull's defence

Bishop's indecency case long gone and forgiven, says Carey

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday made clear that the Church hierarchy would stand by the Rt Rev Michael Turnbull, Bishop of Durham, who was convicted of an act of gross indecency 26 years ago.

Dr Carey, speaking at a press conference in Bishop Turnbull's former diocese of Rochester, said: "Anything of this nature is something that hurts the Body of Christ, but it is the way we handle it and the act of forgiveness that is great."

The archbishop refused to comment on whether he knew of the conviction before Bishop Turnbull was appointed to the fourth most senior see in the Church of England.

Bishop Turnbull was convicted in 1968 of an act of gross indecency with a Yorkshire farmer while he was chaplain

to Lord Coggan, then Archbishop of York. Undercover police were keeping watch on public lavatories in Hull.

Dr Carey, during a visit to the Rochester diocese, said: "Of course it was wrong because we expect high standards from clergy. Michael is a close personal friend. This act was committed 26 years ago when he was a young man. Since then he has gone on to lead a church army and become the Bishop of Rochester and now the Bishop of Durham. He is regarded by the people in this diocese who know him as man of great integrity and honour."

"He has admitted it and it is now long gone and forgiven. Homosexuality is incompatible with the Church of England."

When asked about the Bishop of Durham's sexuality, Dr

Carey said: "I don't want to revisit what was a very painful moment which happened over a quarter of a century ago. Whatever the circumstances he has led an exemplary life for the last 26 years."

Dr Carey insisted there was never a cover-up over the allegations. "There was no intention to do so. Why should we?"

He said Bishop Turnbull's experience would help him to counsel people with similar difficulties. "He would probably deal with it far better than I could. He has been there and would deal with it with great compassion."

"Yes, he did wrong 26 years ago. But should an act committed when he was a young man of 31 stop him becoming the Bishop of Durham 26 years later? The people of this diocese know just how fine a



Turnbull: denies he was homosexual

bishop he is. But the deeper issue is about how the church and society in general handles human weakness."

Bishop Turnbull, married with three children, has denied he is or ever has been homosexual.

Credo, page 10

MP attacks judge over joyrider's 5-year sentence

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Scotland's most senior judges came under attack yesterday for being out of touch with reality after he handed down a five-year jail sentence to a joyrider who left a woman critically injured in the snow.

James Graham, 16, appeared before the Lord Justice-Clerk, Lord Ross, after a hit-and-run accident in a stolen car in Glenrothes, Fife. The victim, Pauline McConnachie, 25, was run down as she cleared snow from her car on Christmas Eve. Her leg was almost severed and had to be amputated.

The sentence was criticised by the victim and by her MP, Henry McLeish, the Shadow Scottish Secretary.

Mr McLeish said: "I am absolutely outraged at the decision by the judge. He has no idea about the damage that has been inflicted on this young lady. Where on earth are these judges living? They are so out of touch with the lives of ordinary people. It seems that permanently damaging someone's life is less

important than robbing banks. What has happened to sentencing policy when someone with this record can get off for petty theft?"

The offence was committed while Graham was on bail for another crime. The case was originally heard in Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court where Graham was found guilty of culpable and reckless conduct to the permanent disfigurement and danger of his victim.

He was sent to Edinburgh's High Court for sentencing after Sheriff William Christie decided the maximum three-year sentence his court could impose was not enough. Graham's co-accused, Lee Peattie, 17, who was in the stolen car when the accident happened, was jailed for three months.

Miss McConnachie, who described in court how she saw two smiling youths in a car and thought they were going to splash her, said: "Five years is nothing. No wonder people keep on committing crimes. They know they are going to get away with it."



A seductive evening dress with cutaway sides by Amanda Wakeley opens British Fashion Week

Ladies who dine come to sparkle

By IAIN R. WEBB

THE first day of shows for British Fashion Week were held yesterday at the Natural History Museum in London. Caroline Charles, Amanda Wakeley and Tomasz Starzewski all offered clothes well suited to their Kensington clientele, who filled the front rows.

Charles showed variations on the over-popular suit — longer and belted, or a neat 1940s silhouette. Skirts were invariably short. The ladies who lunch like to show off their legs. They also like to sparkle, so Charles added clear sequin palettes to powdery soft sweaters.

The audience for Amanda Wakeley's brand of fashion

— who included the actresses Elizabeth Hurley and Twiggy — prefer the designer's minimalist approach. Wakeley cuts sumptuous fabrics such as cashmere, satin and suede into elegant separates. Her evening dresses featuring peek-a-boo flashes revealed a glimpse of flesh. Perfect for Ms Hurley's next outing.

One of Ms Wakeley's most outstandingly seductive creations was an evening dress with trailing fishtail train and cutaway sides, revealing a hint of the body beneath. Other dresses in this section of her show combined shiny satin and matt crepe with a touch of audacity for a modern Naughty Nineties look.

The Times/South Bank Forum

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A debate about the movement's uses and abuses in German politics

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The debate will take place in the Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London SE1 on Tuesday, October 25, 1994, at 7.30pm. Tickets to this event, priced at £10 (concessions £7.50), are available either by calling the South Bank booking office on 071-960 4207 or by completing the form below and posting it to the address given. To have your tickets posted, please include an SAE; otherwise you can pick them up after 6pm on the evening from the Queen Elizabeth Hall pre-paid ticket collection point.

THE TIMES

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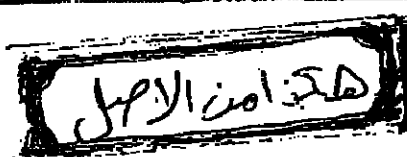
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Sinn Fein leader tells film moguls the peace process is 'irreversible and for good'

Adams ends his US odyssey with bid for Hollywood magic

FROM GILES WHYTELL IN LOS ANGELES

IRELAND'S Troubles and the long path to the current IRA ceasefire would make the perfect subject for a feature film, Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, told Hollywood executives in Los Angeles yesterday.

As his two-week American odyssey came to an end in the world's film-making capital, Mr Adams met some movie stars and was *fixed* like one. He also deftly adapted his usual speech to include what is known to film producers as a pitch.

"There's a story to be told about Ireland," Mr Adams declared at a gathering of middle-ranking film industry executives in the fashionable Hancock Park neighbourhood, after being whisked there from his hotel in a white stretch limousine.

"It's an opportunity to be creative and educational and uplifting," he said, warning that, "if someone feels like making it I can tell you he will meet fierce resistance ... in what is supposed to be the mother of democracies."

Clearly aware of Hollywood's unrivalled power to disseminate a point of view

through so-called message films such as *In the Name of the Father*, Mr Adams said: "You people can do a terrific job of helping us."

He said he was not asking for a specifically Republican treatment of the story of Ireland's troubles. "Come to Ireland and tell what you see. Whatever your view you'll come out with one conclusion, and that is that British rule in Ireland has failed."

Asked for his opinion of *The Name of the Father*, Jim Sheridan's film about Gerry Conlon's wrongful imprisonment for the Guildford pub bombing, Mr Adams steered a diplomatic course, saying: "That was a good film."

Rumours that Oliver Stone, the director of films such as *JFK*, may be considering a film about Mr Adams's life remained unconfirmed on Thursday night. Mr Adams denied having discussed such a project with anyone. He had an opportunity for such discussions later the same evening, however, when the limousine took him to a party in his honour at the Hollywood Hills residence of the Irish actress Fionnula Flanagan.

gan, to which Mr Stone was thought to have been invited. Martin Sheen, Anjelica Huston and the Irish actor Gabriel Byrne were all on a guest list that Mr Adams is sure to add to his ever-growing list of influential West Coast contacts.

Earlier in the day he had addressed a large, mainly student, audience at the University of California at Berkeley, which still basks in its reputation as the birthplace of most post-war student activism. Students cheered when the Sinn Fein leader was introduced as a peace-maker inspired by the likes of Bob Dylan and the Beatles.

"It's my view that the peace process will be irreversible and for good," he said when asked if the phrase "irreversible, and for good" could be applied to the ceasefire as Anthony Lake, President Clinton's national security adviser, had hoped.

Mr Adams refused to state that the ceasefire was permanent but his remark was the closest he has come to such a statement since his round of meetings in Washington earlier in the week.



Gerry Adams in Los Angeles yesterday with Trisha Ziff, a friend. He told Hollywood film-makers there was a tale to be told of Ireland's troubles

Talks may be held before Christmas

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT officials are likely to open talks with Sinn Fein before Christmas, a leading Tory backbencher said yesterday.

Andrew Hunter, chairman of the Conservative Backbench Northern Ireland Committee, said the IRA ceasefire had held for over five weeks, which meant that exploratory talks could begin within the next two months.

The MP for Basingstoke said: "I am very encouraged that the ceasefire is holding. It is far better that people don't kill each other."

The comments by Mr Hunter, who is briefed by officials and ministers, are the strongest hint that the Government believes the IRA ceasefire meets its requirements to allow talks to begin.

If talks are held in December they will follow a formula laid down by Roderic Lyne, Mr Major's foreign affairs adviser, in a letter to Gerry Adams last April. Mr Lyne said a dialogue would explore how Sinn Fein could enter political talks and would examine the "practical consequences of the end to violence", including talks on the handing over of IRA arms.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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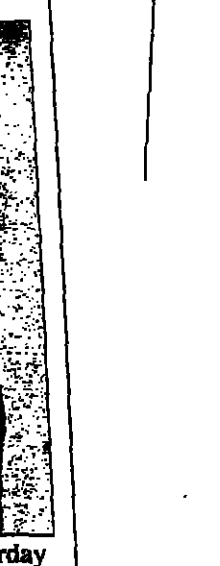
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KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short out

Nigel Short is out of the English team in the chess olympiad now fixed for Moscow in December. The event had originally been set for Thessaloniki but the World Chess Federation cancelled the event when Greek organisers failed to confirm that the funds were available.

Garry Kasparov and his Professional Chess Association then stepped in to organise the olympiad for Moscow.

Nigel Short's condition for playing in Moscow was that the British Chess Federation should have an official meeting to reconsider the full composition of the team and the captaincy. This the federation has refused to do. The English team now is Michael Adams, Jon Speelman, John Nunn, Tony Miles, Julian Hodgson and David Norwood, with Murray Chandler as captain.

Karpov's KO

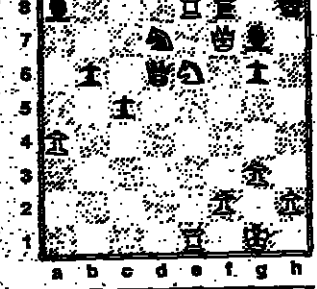
Anatoly Karpov won the following dramatic game in the recently concluded mass open tournament in Tilburg, The Netherlands. Black is brought to his knees by an elegant combination starting with the bishop sacrifice 29 Bx7.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Kiril Georgiev,
Tilburg, 1994

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	Nb6
2	c4	d5
3	Nc3	Bc7
4	Bg5	Nb6
5	Bd4	O-O
6	Bx7	Ox7
7	Bx7	Ox7
8	Bx7	Ox7
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34	Bx7	Ox7

Diagram of final position



Winning Move

Weekend, page 27

THE TIMES BRIDGE

BY JOHN GRAHAM

Dealer North

No score

♠K10	♥Q852	♦A94	♣J3
♠J762	♥104	♦8653	♣1052
♠A93	♥A36	♦KQ102	♣K54
♠N	♠E	♠S	♠W
10	34	4NT	No
54	No	5NT	No
No	No	No	No

Opening lead: 42

East won the first trick with the ace and returned the queen to declarer's king. After such ambitious bidding South saw he had to make all five tricks in the heart suit, so the first move was to cross to dummy with a diamond and finesse the jack of hearts.

The contract was still only makeable if East had the king of hearts and West the 10 — with K-10 left. East would have a natural trick — so the only question was: where was the 7?

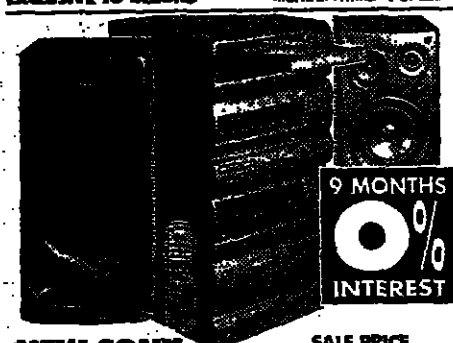
Declarer played three more rounds of diamonds (on which East threw three clubs, ending in dummy. This was the

moment of decision: if East had started with K-3 in hearts, a low heart from dummy would win; but if East had started with K-7-3 the queen would have to be led, to pin West's 10.

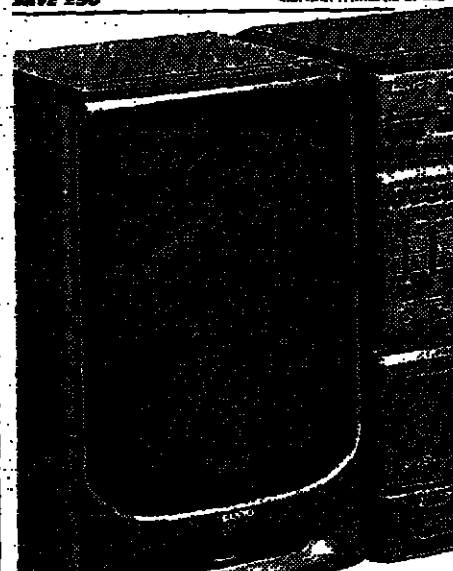
East was known to have started with one diamond and five clubs, so South had to decide whether his hand pattern was 5-2-1-5 or 4-3-1-5. Reckoning that with five spades East might have over-called one spade rather than two clubs, South led the queen of hearts and made the slam. It wasn't much of a clue, but it was all he had and it was enough.

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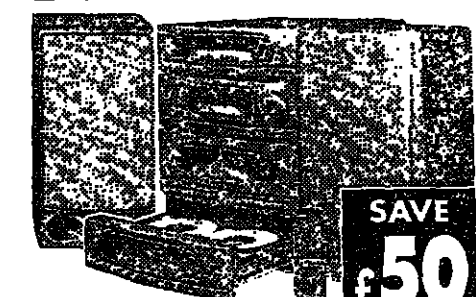
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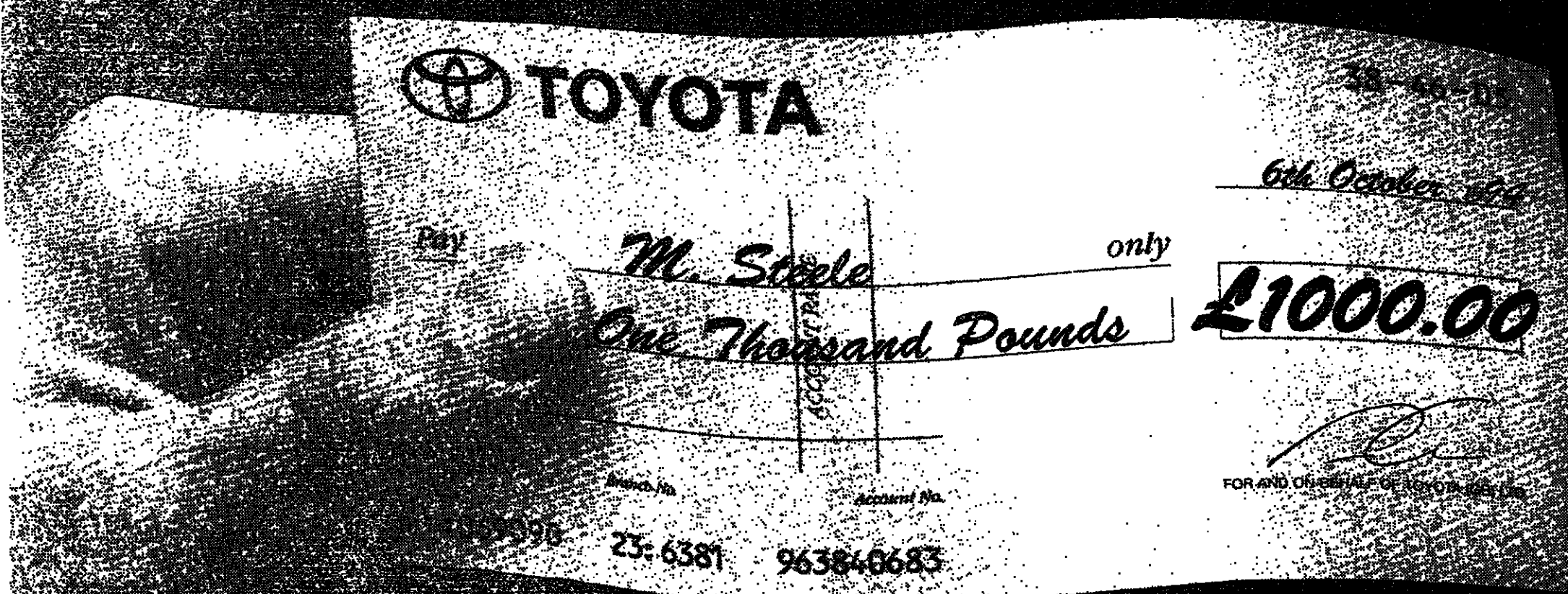
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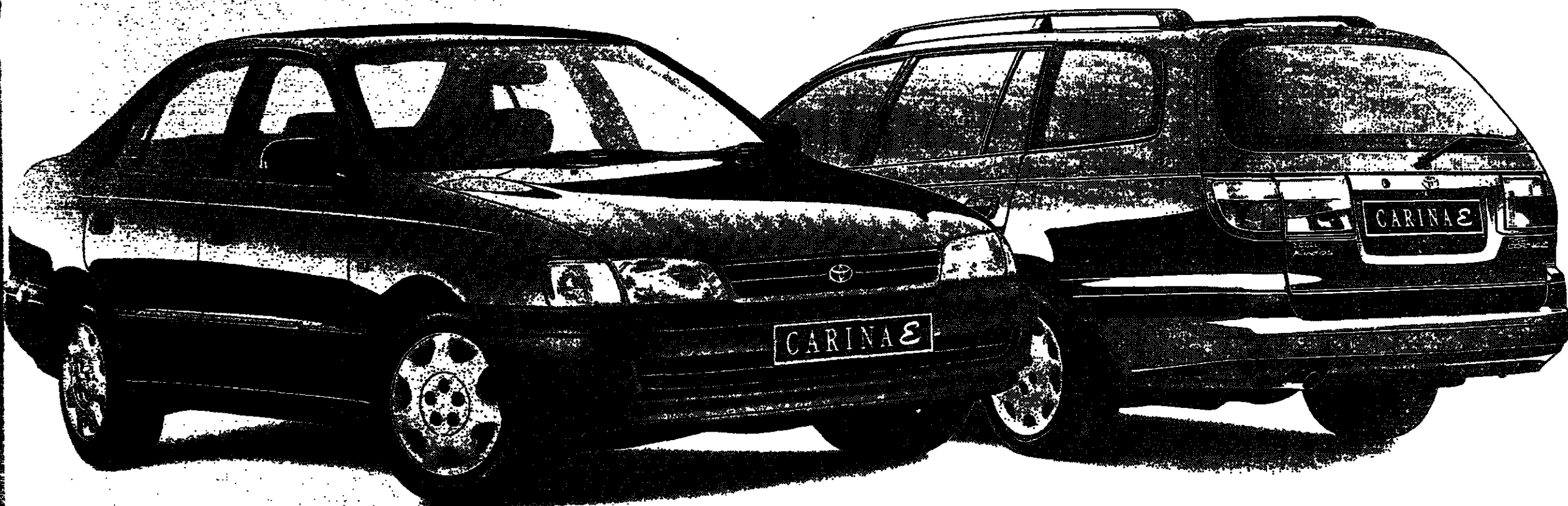
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First radio stations for Christians and women get go-ahead

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's first Christian radio station and the first radio service catering for women will be on air by the middle of next year.

London Christian Radio, which will be funded by audience donations with the support of Catholic, Protestant and Baptist leaders, and Viva Radio, which is chaired by the PR guru Lynne Franks, who inspired the television series *Absolutely Fabulous*, were awarded AM licences by the Radio Authority yesterday.

In an unexpected move, the authority also awarded FM licences to two competing rock music stations in London — Richard Branson's Virgin organisation, which already has a national AM licence to broadcast rock-oriented music, and to Crystal FM, part of the Chrysalis media group, which will transmit adult contemporary (AC) music. Capital Radio retained its FM and



Franks: PR guru behind Viva radio

AM licences in the latest London radio franchise round but will face the first ever challenge from Virgin and Crystal, to its 20-year monopoly on the capital's mainstream music radio scene.

Lord Chalfont, 74, chairman of the Radio Authority, denied that Virgin and Crystal would compete directly with each

other. Adult contemporary music was far more melodic than rock-oriented music, he said. "I don't profess to be an expert but even I can tell the difference between the two," he added.

Peter Meadows, chief executive of London Christian Radio, said that the station had raised £1.2 million in donations from individual supporters to meet launch costs. In visits to London churches it had recruited 7,000 subscribers, contributing an average of £30 each a year towards running costs.

The station, whose patrons include the Rt Rev David Hope, Bishop of London, and Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, will target Christians from all denominations aged over 35.

Viva is intended to be the equivalent of a women's magazine. About 45 per cent of output will be music and the station hopes 25 per cent of its audience will be men.

Tempus, page 25



Ospreys have made a strong recovery in Scotland since their persecution ended

Birds of prey make comeback

OSPREYS and red kites have had their best breeding season for more than a century, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday (John Vincent writes).

The osprey was persecuted to extinction in Scotland, with the last one dying in 1916, but the breed has made a slow recovery since the first pair

bred again in 1954. This year a total of 95 pairs raised 146 young, the largest number since records began. Red kites, whose numbers dwindled to only a handful in the 19th century, have also recovered well.

A tiny population in Wales survived and this year's breeding figures — 106 pairs raising 98 young — are the

best this century. Reintroduced red kites fared well in England, with 20 pairs producing 37 young, and in Scotland, where eight pairs raised 13 young.

Other rare birds had a mixed season. Numbers of bitterns continued to decline and corn crakes failed to breed in Northern Ireland for the first time.

Church which embraces both humanity and the Holy Spirit

Paul Avis

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the most gifted of 20th-century theologians, sealed his theology with his life in a Nazi prison nearly 50 years ago. Bonhoeffer completed his first book, *The Communion of Saints*, on the Christian church, in his early twenties. He summed up his argument in the catchphrase: "Christ exists as the Church". This insight, though arresting, was not original.

St Paul, too, calls the church "Christ" — when, speaking of the many limbs and organs that make up the human body, he says "so it is with Christ", his body is the church which is composed of many members (1 Cor 12.12). St Paul and Bonhoeffer, spanning the Christian centuries, invite us to understand the church in the light of Jesus Christ — not always easy.

Our attention is often captured by conflicts and confusions within the church and by the foibles and failings of its members.

Christians are still divided at the end of this ecumenical century and the Church of England has just had a great dispute about women priests. Clearly, the church is a human institution with political structures that patently belong to this world. It is both fallible and sinful. Some of its most obvious features are argument, conflict and division and this has always been so, right back to the New Testament. Christians disagree passionately among themselves because God has not revealed how the fundamental unchanging principles of the faith are to be translated to meet the challenges of a constantly developing historical context.

It would be idolatry to identify the church with Jesus Christ absolutely. Christ and the church are in tension. The relationship is dialectical — a dialect of identity and distance, solidarity and judgment, unity

and criticism. The church is, at one and the same time, both a divinely ordained society and a human institution. Christians cannot give up on the faith-dimension of the church.

In the Apostles' Creed the Holy Spirit is the ultimate ground of the church: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints... Yet we must never use this ultimate grounding in the Holy Spirit to justify all that is done in the name of the church. The church is compelled to undertake a continual critical evaluation of its fellowship with Christ."

While the media, perhaps inevitably, tends to focus on the shortcomings of the church as a human institution, millions of our fellow citizens draw strength to live a better life and to cope with adversity from their participation in the worship and fellowship of the churches.

They will continue to be grateful to the media for responsible criticism of ecclesiastical failures but they will not thank the media when criticism passes into debunking and makes it harder for the faithful to discern the reflection of Jesus Christ in the face of the church.

Bonhoeffer saw that some form of the church — that is, Christians gathered in community to worship, witness and services — belongs to the very essence of Christianity. In the little book *Life Together*, which he wrote for the training of pastors in the German Confessing Church, which resisted Nazism, Bonhoeffer insisted: "Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ... No Christian community is more or less than this... we belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ."

Prebendary Dr Paul Avis is vicar of Stoke Canon, Farnham, Surrey, and Rector of Netherne, Exeter.



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Police chief says officers abuse early retirement

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers have been accused by a Chief Constable of retiring on medical grounds to win bigger pensions.

Since the beginning of last year more than 60 per cent of the 154 retirements from the Nottinghamshire force have been for health reasons, Dan Crompton, the Chief Constable, said.

In other forces the figure is as high as 70 per cent, causing concern at the Home Office.

Mr Crompton gave a warning that further increases in retirements on medical grounds could lead to cuts in overtime payments and manpower levels. "There are many deserving cases for medical retirement but it is my firm view that others have milked the system for personal financial advantage."

"All they are doing is taking advantage of the rules, some might say. Could any organisation withstand medical retirements rates of this order? The answer is no."

He told *Police Review*: "If we were a private company we would have been bankrupt long ago."

Mr Crompton said one of the weaknesses of the system was that an officer who was fit to work in a control room would then be asked to move to operational duties. "Then one invariably sees the search for medical retirement. I call that an abuse of the system."

There is alarm over the strain on budgets caused by medical retirement. Research

for the Home Office has shown that more than half of all retiring police officers leave the service early on medical grounds. Such retirements rose fourfold in ten years and accounted for 36 per cent of officers retiring.

Trefor Morris, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, said in his annual report last year that the high percentage of retirements on health grounds would "place increasing strain on pensions budgets and may require a change in the rules governing medical retirements."

Officially, the increase is blamed on dangers of policing, with 22,000 injuries to officers a year. But a Police Federation survey among junior ranks found many officers believed colleagues abused the system to escape from a stressful job.

Mr Crompton's statement was rejected by the Nottinghamshire branch of the Police Federation. Dave Wheelodon, the secretary, wrote to the Chief Constable demanding evidence to support his claim that the system was being abused.

Mr Wheelodon said there were rigid procedures for securing retirement on medical grounds.

The police pension is payable after 25 years' service if the officer is 50 or after 30 years if under 50. It becomes index-linked at 55. Early medical retirement gives an officer a full pension.



Andrew Pacey broke down in tears as he spoke: "We just can't believe what has happened. Anybody who knew her would tell you she was a lovely person"

Family 'ruined' by Julie Pacey's murder

Husband in tears as he appeals to wife's killer

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

THE husband of murder victim Julie Pacey wept uncontrollably yesterday as he made an emotional appeal for the killer to give himself up. Andrew Pacey, 39, said: "If he just saw what he has done to our family, he would come forward."

"It's affected everything in our lives. It has ruined everything, all our plans. We just can't believe what has happened. It's just Julie. She was so lovely. Anybody who knew her would tell you she was a lovely person... wonderful."

Helen Pacey, 14, who returned from school on September 26 to find her mother's body in the bathroom of their Grantham home, was taken to hospital on Thursday night suffering suspected appendicitis. She had been kept in hospital overnight for observation.

Mr Pacey said Helen and her brother, Matthew, 11, had not coped particularly well since the murder. "Helen has



Julie Pacey: no obvious motive

been very upset and quiet. Matthew has been speaking more but is still very upset at nights, obviously. We're just getting through each day at a time. Everyone is pulling together though the future will be very difficult."

The police are trying to establish a motive for the

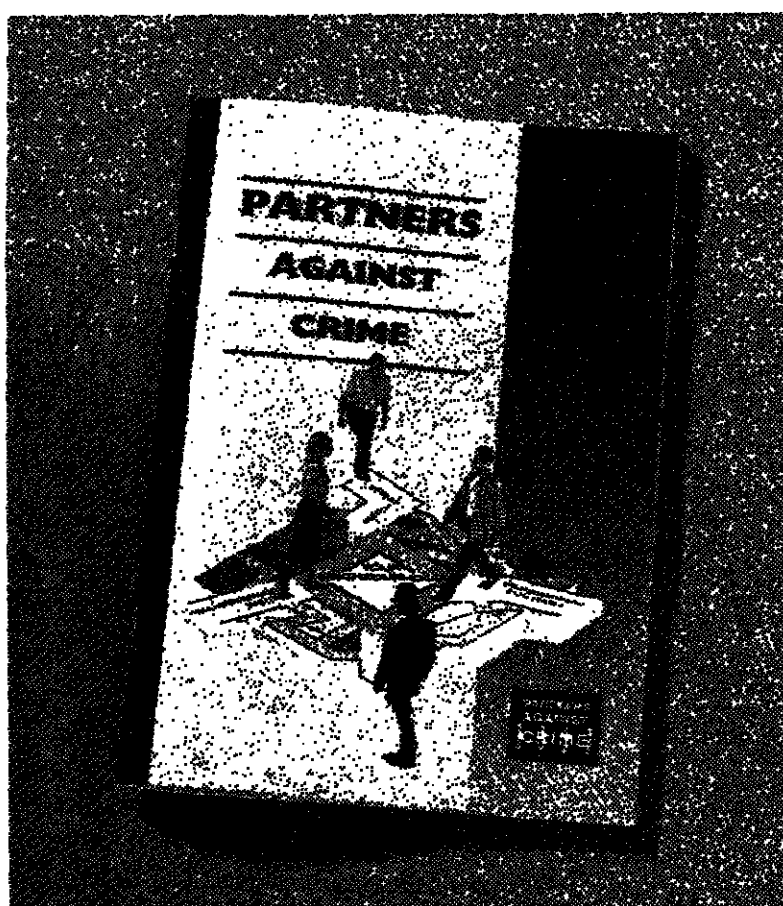
killings. Mrs Pacey had suffered a serious sexual assault and had been strangled but there were no signs of a break-in or struggle.

Det Supt Roger Billingsley of Lincolnshire Police said it was possible she had been too frightened to resist. He said there was no evidence Mrs Pacey knew her killer.

The police are still trying to trace a man who called at the house three days before the murder. Mrs Pacey had told her daughter on September 23 that she had been upstairs when she heard someone at the front door and called out "come in". She went downstairs to find a stranger in her hallway. He asked for directions and left. The man was about 35, white, overweight, 5ft 8in tall. He wore blue overalls and boots.

The police are also trying to trace the owner of a metallic blue BMW or similar car, seen turning into the driveway, next to Mrs Pacey's Audi, at about 3pm on the day of the murder.

THE BOOKLET CRIMINALS HAVEN'T BEEN WAITING FOR.



Gerbils have taken over shredding duties at Tobermory

Gerbils sink teeth into police secrets

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

WHEN cutbacks meant police on the island of Mull could not have a shredding machine, they recruited a pair of gerbils to do the job.

Until recently, confidential papers were burnt on the Inner Hebridean island's rubbish tip. Then Strathclyde Police vetoed burning as a method of disposing of the documents.

When a request for a shredding machine for the two-man police station at Tobermory was turned down,

Sergeant Malcolm McGookin bought two gerbils, Otto and Shredder. The rodents shred the paper to make bedding, filling the large glass fish tank in which they live once a week.

PC Daniel Armour, who is based at Tobermory, said: "They are very efficient. They can get through three or four sheets in an afternoon. They shred police reports and other documents that you can't just put in the bin. They are a joy to watch."

Right now, there are some very concerned criminals out there reading this. Their chances of getting away again and again with crimes could be greatly reduced.

It depends on all of us.

The Police need more help from the public to fight crime. 62% of all solved cases are thanks to public co-operation.

After all, the Police can't be everywhere at once. But together with your neighbours, you can.

That's why we've brought out this booklet, 'Partners Against Crime'. It tells you how you can help reduce crime, in partnership with the Police.

Most people, after all, report crimes if they see them happening.

But it's when crimes are less obvious that many people will sometimes turn a blind eye.

To a man loitering outside a neighbour's house, for instance. Or to a newly broken window.

You may see something, but are scared of making a mistake, so you pretend you haven't seen.

But it's a bigger mistake to let a possible crime go unreported.

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Voice of the Left launches Labour crusade with commitment to public ownership and pours

Prescott unveils plan for one member, one recruit

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Prescott launched a new drive to boost membership to 500,000 by the next general election as he urged the conference to rally behind Tony Blair and "stop speaking the language of the past".

In a passionate and rousing end-of-conference speech, which earned him a long standing ovation, the deputy leader called on the party's 300,000 members to recruit one person each to help build a mass membership party and "put politics back in touch with the people".

Mr Prescott announced a new £1 rate for all new youth members, aged between 15 and 18, as the conference backed a resolution calling for cut-price membership schemes to be extended across the country. He also gave details of a new political education campaign backed by constituency visits by MPs. Balancing his call for loyalty to Mr Blair with a reaffirma-



tion of Labour's basic socialist principles, Mr Prescott said Labour had learnt its lessons and was "on the road to government".

Mr Blair was building on John Smith's legacy of integrity and honesty and had given the people a new confidence in Labour, he said. He was a leader with the courage to lead and the party owed it to the people to win the next election. "Once again we are Labour

with ambition. Labour with confidence. Labour to be proud of," said Mr Prescott. "Our ambition is for the people who so desperately cry out for a change of government. Our confidence is for the potential of a country liberated from Tory waste, corruption and sleaze."

"Our pride will be the honesty and integrity and decency of a Labour government. It has taken far too long to achieve."

But he warned against complacency, arguing that the party could win the next election only by convincing voters that Labour could make the difference: "Never underestimate the capacity of the Tories to lie and cheat their way to government. We will not win the election by default. We will win it through the force of our ideas and the strength of our argument."

The new statement on the party's constitution would

offer the chance to "ignite the public with an enthusiasm for our beliefs," said Mr Prescott, as he reassured the Left that the party would not be abandoning its fundamental beliefs.

Brushing aside Mr Blair's defeat on Clause 4 on Thursday, Mr Prescott said nobody should fear debate. "We will reaffirm the principles of decency and justice that are the core of those beliefs," said Mr Prescott. "Our constitution will stand as the rock of our socialist convictions for the next century."

The party had to defend public services such as the railways and the Post Office, he said. "As Tony said on Tuesday, we believe in public ownership. It is an essential and fundamental part of our socialist faith that we believe in as a Labour party. It is at the heart of our philosophy."

He called on everyone in the party to play their part. "It's a



Prescott: his passionate speech managed to combine support for the party's new direction and old values

massive task. It's a crusade. We have to win back the trust that the Tories have squandered."

Underlining the need for more representation of women, he said prejudice had to be dispelled both inside and outside the party. "Let's stop speaking the language of the

past and start practising the politics of the future," he said. Earlier, in a vicious and witty onslaught on the Tories, Mr Prescott said the conference had "served a notice to quit on the most desperate, despicable, seedy, grubby, hopeless, lying, hideously incompetent bunch of third-rate

double-dealing disasters this nation has ever seen".

Later, Larry Whitty, the party's outgoing general secretary, urged the party not to turn its back on the trade unions, as it emerged that the NEC was to draw up new rules to reduce the voting strength of unions at confer-

ences. "Remember that in progress in life and in politics you have to take the people with you. Always remember that the trade union base of this party is its greatest strength and not its weakness," he said.

Rallying call, page 1

Blair blitzkrieg leaves friends and enemies shell-shocked

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

Tony Blair could have done without Thursday's defeat over Clause Four. But few would deny that he had a stunningly successful week at Blackpool.

If the Conservatives show little sign yet of coming to terms with the phenomenon that is the Labour leader, that could also be said of many of his leadership colleagues.

Mr Blair is moving at a pace that is staggering, even frightening, some senior party figures. The reaction of the few who were let in on his historic announcement on Clause Four ranged from delight to horror. Shock was the abiding emotion. He was going to do it, and he was going to tell conference that he was doing it. It was brave, reckless, or both. One Labour

votes and yesterday's headlines would have proclaimed that the Blair revolution had been carried out in two days.

Perhaps that would have been too smooth. Mr Blair will need, and get, a little trouble on the way to prove to the country that he has changed his party for good.

His biggest tasks lie ahead, when he returns to the cold reality of Westminster. Key among them will be sharpening and developing his policies to match the rhetoric of change. But Mr Blair wants to cut back on the reams of policy papers flowing through the party machine. A much tighter system of policy preparation will be introduced. With Shadow Cabinet elections imminent, Mr Blair wants to bring on new talent,

but much depends on the hand he is dealt by the electorate of MPs. At one point it seemed likely that Robin Cook would become shadow Foreign Secretary to replace Jack Cunningham. But Mr Cook angered some in the leadership by what was seen as a less than supportive response over Clause Four, and his chances have subsided. One candidate being canvassed for that job is George Robertson, the shadow Scottish Secretary. Jack Straw is at the top of many lists to replace Mr Blair as shadow Home Secretary.

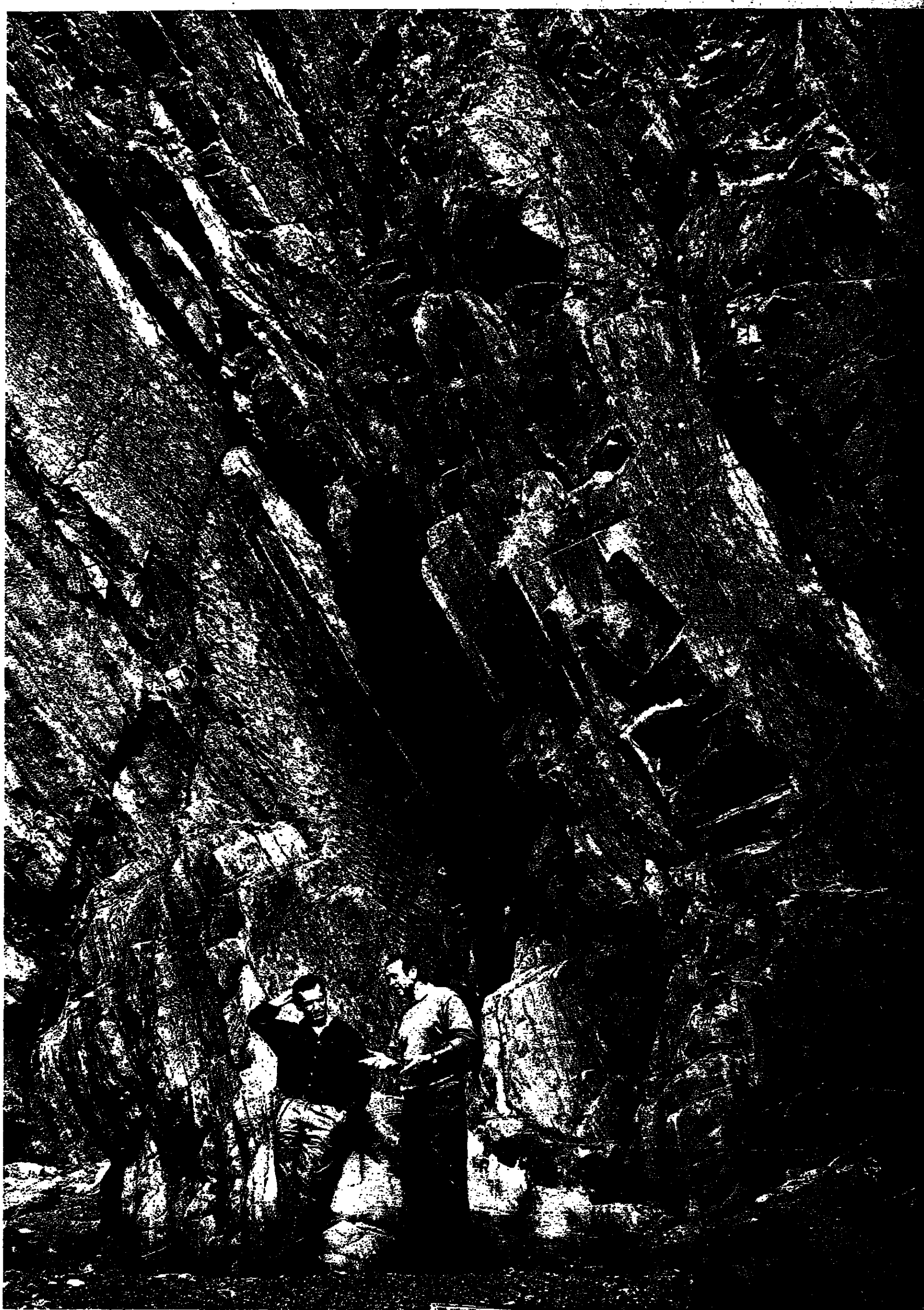
There is also pressure for John Prescott — along with Mr Blair the undoubted star of this week's events in the Winter Gardens — to take on a senior post. Some would like to see him shadowing Michael Howard. The success of the Blair-Prescott axis, with Mr Blair leading from the front and Mr Prescott reassuring the faithful, is regarded by all Labour insiders as a central advance.

Mr Blair has to press home the advantage on Clause Four. He has a one-page draft replacement in his back pocket. It will go to the national executive in December and then go out to consultation. Mr Blair is determined to have an agreement sewn up early next year.

“The Blair team may have taken their eye off the ball. All energies should have been devoted to Clause Four”



Jack Cunningham's successor as shadow Foreign Secretary now seems unlikely to be Robin Cook



سازمان اطلاعات

scorn on a 'cheating' Government approaching its own conference with some trepidation

Sharks lie in wait for those in peril by the sea

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE fringe meetings at the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth next week lap around the annual gathering of the fleet like shark-infested waters.

Inside the hall, with resolutions that congratulate and commend the Government, John Major and his business managers can risk a quiet dip. Outside, where Cabinet "bastards" cruise the waves, mutinous crews brandish their cutlasses and would-be captains run up their flags, the Prime Minister faces a choppy passage.

Around 140 fringe meetings are packed into three days at Bournemouth. Some, such as the Conservative Christian Fellowship's "Prayer Breakfast" appear innocuous. Others, such as "Clear Blue Water", starring Michael Portillo and Sir George Gardiner, look more like the political equivalent of Jaws.

For once, the Right faces

competition in the battle for Europe. On Tuesday lunchtime, Lord Hurd, a former leader of the Tory MEPs, and David Hunt, the Cabinet's troubleshooter, can be expected to put the case for constructive engagement, an approach that will be endorsed that afternoon on the conference



Tebbit: joining the fray in the European debate

floor by Douglas Hurd. But by dusk, Lord Tebbit will be on the prowl with Sir James Goldsmith, the Anglo-French businessman and leader of *L'Audre Europe*. Meanwhile, Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, will also be rocking the European boat in front of the right-wing Selsdon Group.

By Wednesday, the sparks will be flying over "whither Conservatism?". Mr Hurd will point one way at the Tory Reform Group meeting, only for Mr Portillo to strike a different posture at Conservative Way Forward. And in case anyone was looking the other way, Mr Portillo plans another outing that evening before Conservative graduates.

For true devotees of political theatre, Michael Heseltine's command performance on Thursday at the Pavilion Theatre on "Tomorrow's Yesterday" — which sounds like a

reprise of his greatest hits — is not to be missed.

Alan Clark, the party's most irreverent diarist, Christopher Monckton, late of Margaret Thatcher's policy unit, Edward Leigh, a right-winger sacked by Mr Major, and Emma Nicholson, a Heseltine fan, are the rival attractions at the Bow Group.

The welfare state and the family will be chewed over on Tuesday by Alistair Burt, the minister responsible for the Child Support Agency, and Sue Shipman, the director of the National Council for One Parent Families.

Quite the most alarming gathering is concerned not with Brussels, unmarried mothers or Tory ideology. David Davis, Minister for Europe, is due to speak on Wednesday on "Landmines: Who pays the price?" Mr Major will hope it is not a metaphor for his week on the beach.



One voice: at the end of the conference, none were keener than the Blairs to indicate, with a rousing rendition of The Red Flag, that the party's fast-moving modernisation would not leave behind traditional values. Matthew Parris, page 2

Don't forget about us, activists tell Blair

By ROBERT MORGAN
POLITICAL STAFF

TONY Blair was warned yesterday not to ignore conference decisions and votes. Delegates also called for more openness about the way the National Executive Committee runs the party.

As the annual conference in Blackpool came to an end, activists pressed for their voice to be heard. Christine Bowden, Hove, was applauded when she told the Labour leader: "Listen to the conference. We do not come here to bask in reflected glory."

She said that activists campaigning in the country wanted to be sure of party policy and not worried that it would be overturned in a matter of hours. But demands for NEC votes to be made public were resisted by the leadership and on a card vote, the proposal was rejected by 72.7 per cent to 27.3 per cent.

Heather Dawes, Hastings and Rye, said that members wanted to know how policy was decided and how the party was run because this would influence how members voted at the annual NEC elections.

Delegates overwhelmingly backed a resolution calling on a Labour Government "to introduce legislation designed to reduce monopolistic control of the media, so as to ensure as far as possible a free and open press".

Marjorie Mowlam, the shadow national heritage secretary, promised that a Labour Government would regulate "nationally and regionally" to prevent media monopolies.

There was wide support for a motion recommending Labour to an equal age of consent for homosexuals and heterosexuals.

The motion, carried by 97.6 per cent to 2.4 per cent, called for legislation "to ensure that lesbians and gay men have the same rights and protections in law as those enjoyed by other sections of society".

Labour open to Lib Dem dialogue

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leader opened the door to closer contacts with Liberal Democrats yesterday by calling for a "dialogue of ideas" between the parties.

Last month Paddy Ashdown signalled that he favoured informal links between his party and Labour.

Yesterday, Mr Blair said: "I have got absolutely nothing against discussing ideas with people. I called after the last general election for a dialogue of ideas on the Left. If there are areas in which people can co-operate in developing ideas, I think that is intelligent politics and that is what the public want to see," he told BBC's *Breakfast News*.

Although the Labour leader dismissed pacts or deals with the Liberal Democrats, his comments raised the prospect of an informal anti-Conservative entente. "I don't think Labour should be exclusive in its politics. We should not say we are the only party with ideas."

Mr Blair also emphasised his wish to avoid gratuitous confrontation in the Commons. "Westminster politics is going to have to change if we are to reconnect politics with the lives of people. It is important that, if people see us on television, we try to communicate with them about things that matter rather than shout at each other."



Ashdown: indicated he favoured party contacts

Hanley pleads for conference unity

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CALL for Conservatives to match the discipline of their Labour rivals was issued yesterday by Jeremy Hanley, the Tory chairman, as his party prepared for next week's conference in Bournemouth.

With Tory activists and MPs unnerved by Tony Blair's success this week in launching a transformation of the Opposition, Mr Hanley said that his troops should learn a lesson from unity showed by Labour during the transition from John Smith to Mr Blair.

His remarks came against the background of the internal Tory feuding over John Major's leadership and Europe that has marred much of the past two years. Although it died down in the summer after the European elections and the headway made by the Prime Minister in his quest for peace in North-

ern Ireland, the high command remains fearful that hostilities could be renewed in Bournemouth.

Mr Hanley said in a special conference edition of *The House Magazine*: "The Conservative party has to learn the discipline of the Labour party that they showed during their leadership election. People lose respect for parties that do not have discipline."

The Tory chairman also sought to exploit Mr Blair's setbacks in Blackpool, saying that his modernising crusade had proved short-lived: "Today John Prescott says that he and Tony Blair are passionately committed to public ownership, an essential part of the socialist faith. What a climbdown from Tuesday's rhetoric."

The Gaffer.
Magazine, page 8

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Law Society: 'limit to how long we can work increasingly long hours for no profit'

Solicitors accuse Tories of sinister plan to cut legal aid cash

Frances Gibb, the Times legal correspondent named newspaper journalist of the year by the Bar Council this week, reports from the Law Society's conference

THE Government was accused yesterday of a "sinister agenda" to limit the cash available for legal aid with its proposals to create GP-style fundholders who will grant legal aid.

Charles Elly, president of the Law Society, which represents solicitors in England and Wales, told the society's annual conference in London that legal aid had to remain as a demand-led system.

Government proposals to set up fundholders were not about restraining growth in spending: "It's altogether more sinister: it is to fix arbitrary limits on the budget."

He said that one reason for the rising legal aid bill, expected to reach £1.6 billion by 1996, was the Government's own policies. Measures to curb a suspect's unfettered right to silence would cost more money, because more solicitors would be called to police stations at night and there would be more arguments in court over whether a suspect's refusal to answer questions should be held against them. "This will mean longer trials and more money," Mr Elly said.

He accepted the need for some controls on legal aid, but said this should be done by reducing the legal aid costs for each case rather than cash-limiting the total funds available, or by creating "fundholders", which would be a new bureaucratic tier.

Solicitors were working in-

creasingly long hours for hourly rates under the legal aid scheme that were "no longer sustainable", he added.

For two years there had been no rise in hourly rates and earlier this year the fixed rates of pay in civil cases had meant in some parts of the country a reduction in fees of about one-third. "This cannot go on. We have shown clearly over many years our willingness, as a profession, to provide legal services for members of the public by carrying out work at little or no profit, and I suspect on many occasions at a loss."

There was a limit to how long solicitors could do this and that limit was being reached, he said.

Mr Elly also attacked government proposals for "emasculating" the scheme of compensation for crime victims and replacing it with a tariff that would "drastically cut awards to the most seriously injured victims."

The proposals had been rejected in the House of Lords and in a few weeks the House of Commons would be voting. "Do MPs realise that under this plan, the award to a young person unable to work for life as a result of a criminal attack could be cut by around 80 per cent?"

The Law Society is to urge MPs to adopt an alternative under which smaller awards could be handled on a tariff system but larger awards could still be dealt with on a discretionary basis.



Judges, part of a legal system that encourages time-wasting, should allocate blocks of time for speeches by counsel and questioning of witnesses

President demands time limits on civil hearings for justice 'people can afford'

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT



Charles Elly: "disputes could be settled by phone"

JUSTICE "people can afford" could be introduced by imposing time limits on civil trials and settling small disputes by telephone, the president of the Law Society yesterday.

Charles Elly told some 800 solicitors at their annual conference in London that costs in civil justice were too high and the way the courts were run was too expensive.

"Go into any court any day of the week," he said. "Squeeze past clients and lawyers crammed in corridors trying to reach settlements."

"If you are lucky enough to find a trial in session, you may find counsel solemnly reading out loud documents and cases as if the judge had not already had a chance to read them and did not have copies in front of him."

Mr Elly, who is head of the 70,000 solicitors' profession in England and Wales, said that advocacy was about putting an argument persuasively and

succinctly. He added: "More often it is about leaving no stone unturned. No question, however remotely relevant, is left unasked. No argument however fanciful is unexplored."

The only way to stop all this was to set fixed time limits on the length of civil trials, he said. This would cut costs both for the litigants in the case and for all other litigants whose cases would then start on time.

If advocates in the US could present a brief to the Supreme Court in 30 minutes, they could do the same here.

Mr Elly suggested later at a press conference that judges should allocate blocks of time for speeches by counsel and their questioning of witnesses and in that way, calculate a time limit for the case as a whole.

If barristers failed to meet their deadlines, there would be no extensions. "If you can't get out your point in the time allotted, you've missed it."

Mr Elly said. For the smaller claims of under £1,000, particularly those consumer disputes over shoddy goods and services, Mr Elly outlined a novel "judging by telephone" arbitration scheme.

Solicitors, adept at negotiation and settlement, could play a key role as arbitrators, settling disputes without the need for a court hearing.

The county courts were becoming "increasingly uneconomic", he said. Instead, under this cheap arbitration service, solicitors could phone people at their home or work, if they needed to clarify the facts and then reach swift authoritative decisions "which would carry confidence in local communities".

He said: "This truly would enable us to bring justice to the people at a price they can afford."

Leading article, page 21

£43 million mortgage fraud man gets 5 years

A businessman was jailed for five years yesterday for a £43 million mortgage fraud that deprived hundreds of investors of life savings.

Oxford Crown Court was told that Roy Wharton, 61, chairman of Castlegate Group Holdings and Castlegate Securities, Reading, made a fortune leading investors' money for second mortgages. But as the property recession of the late 1980s began to bite into profits, he began lending large amounts of the investors' money to borrowers who were unable to pay him back.

Wharton, of Yateley, Hampshire, was found guilty of two sample charges of fraudulent trading.

Rapist was 14

A boy who raped an 18-year-old woman after a "rave" party, threatening her with a pair of scissors, was ordered to be detained for five years by the Old Bailey yesterday. Tiras Downie, 15, from Brixton, was 14 at the time.

Lawful killing

A former Royal Marine, shot dead by police after a bank raid in north London, was killed lawfully, an inquest jury ruled. David Stone, 35, was cornered after the raid in Highgate last October.

PC dies

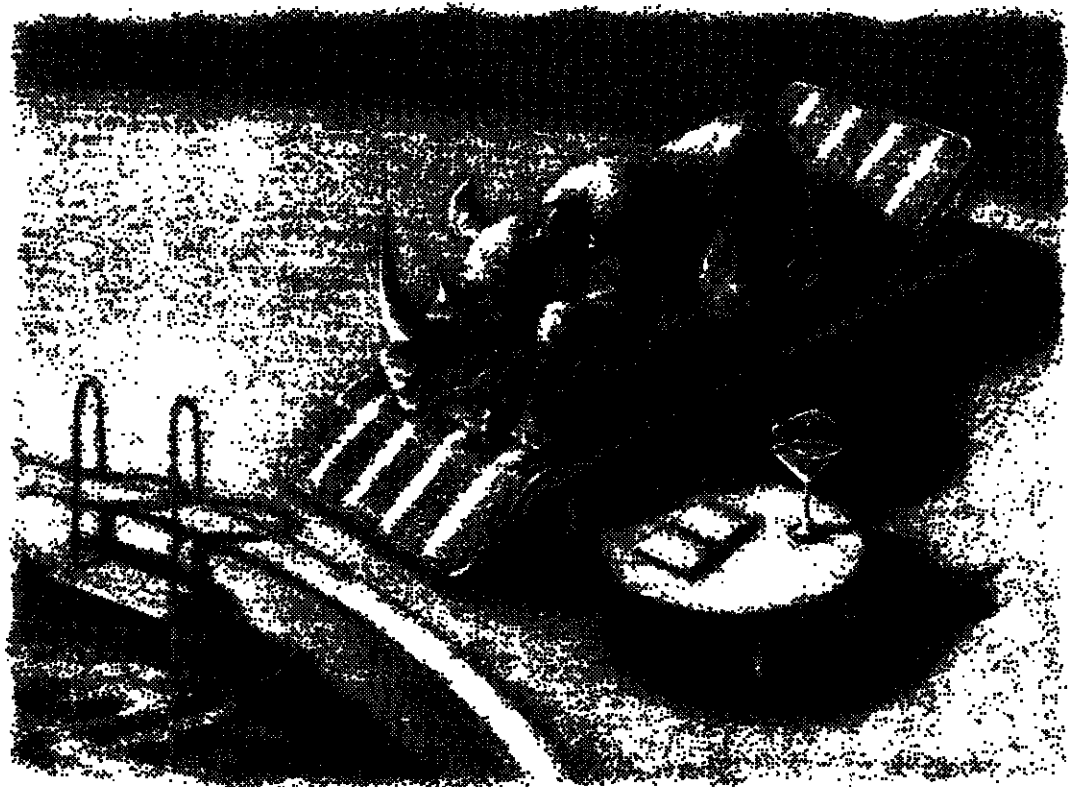
PC Matthew Parsonson, 27, was killed in a car crash three weeks after joining the force as he and four colleagues answered an emergency call. He was based at Stoke Newington, north London.

Priest jailed

A Catholic priest who molested altar boys was jailed for 2½ years by Leeds Crown Court. Father Patrick Hegarty, 63, of St Joseph's Church, Leeds, admitted indecent assault.

Magazine

Some overseas editions of The Times on Saturday do not contain copies of the Magazine, which is available on subscription. Telephone enquiries to 071-782 6129 or by fax to 071-782 6130.



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Conservatives in crisis.

As the Tory Party Conference approaches, Michael Heseltine and Edward Heath give The Sunday Times their views on the current state of the party.



Disney in distress.

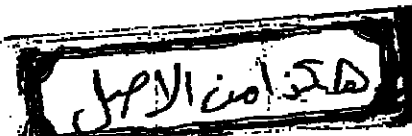
Has Disney lost its bite? Tomorrow in The Sunday Times, Julie Burchill sinks her teeth into The Lion King and gives her recipe for a Disney blockbuster.

Cults of death.

Just what drove The Order of the Solar Temple to self-destruct? A detailed analysis in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

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Fears over Anglicised Europe revive dream of the nation state

French identity crisis fuels new drive for la gloire

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

A DOZEN senior civil servants from the Nordic countries trooped this week through the august Left Bank portals of the ENA, the nursery of France's governing elite, and started conjugating "Je suis, tu es..."

The new Eurocrats' language course at the Ecole Nationale de l'Administration is another rear-guard action by a country agonising over its waning clout in Europe and the world at large. Paris think-tanks may jeer at the spectacle of Britain in decline, but episodes over the past month have underlined the feeling, often unfounded, that the "French model" in everything from government to cuisine, is under mortal threat from an ungrateful, American-influenced world.

"The arrival of the new members risks swinging the majority [in the European Union] towards English," Alain Lamassoure, the Minister for European Affairs, said after the Nordic *fonctionnaires* came to the ENA.

The onslaught of English is a factor in the anxiety over the potential emergence of a

Anxiety is growing that the "French model" in everything from government to cuisine is at risk in an ungrateful world

Union that is no longer a France writ large but which amounts to a German-led trade-zone supported by Britain. The recent call by Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, for an inner Franco-German core was a response to the fear of ebbing power.

Seen from Paris, the French model of centralised state management, born in the 17th century, is under siege on all fronts, not least at home. From what opponents call the "neo-liberal dogma" as well as the crisis of the state-subsidised cinema and collapse of the linguistic Maginot Line, witness this week's offensive in the European Court, led by Britain, to block the 20 billion franc (£2.5 billion) subsidy that M. Balladur has promised the effectively bankrupt Air France. While Paris is defying Brussels over competition on air routes, ministers are also fighting to keep out Japanese car imports.

On another front, France expects the European Court to

embarrass it by siding with Muslim girls who are being expelled from school for defying a new ban on head-covering in the classroom. For liberal commentators, the Muslim affair symbolises the fragile state of *le modèle français*. Despite its tradition of secular education, a nation as strong as France should be able to tolerate minorities, they say.

M. Balladur is, however, irritated by such talk. "You have to understand that French civilisation is a civilisation of uniformity while the Anglo-Saxon one is based on diversity," he tells British questioners. The public, according to polls, strongly agrees with him.

France's clouded image in the world was at the heart of the outrage from the media and human rights groups yesterday over the government's refusal to allow Taslima Nasreen, the Bangladeshi writer, to visit the country for more than 24 hours. The government backed down, after the critics lamented the impression that a country which proclaimed itself the world champion of secular liberty should flinch from welcoming a victim of Muslim extremism.

The "Anglo-Saxon" model has been brandished with a vengeance over the past week by media pundits abhorring the eruption of corruption cases across the political and business world. *Le Monde* even published a gushing article depicting the integrity of British public life as a shining example for France. Restoring the glory of



Le Monde's image of Marianne, symbol of the republic, in despair over France

l'exception française, as General de Gaulle called it, has become a priority in the presidential campaign. Both the Gaullist premier and Jacques Chirac, his main rival, are promising to make France a great power again.

They are, however, running headlong into a contradiction. Both acknowledge privately that even with the end of recession, the only way to cure the chronic unemployment is to cut the high taxes and rigid labour laws that keep people out of work. At the same time they are vowing to preserve the generous "social guarantees" born in an age of protectionism. Trying to outdo his colleague, M. Chirac is promising a return to "Social-

Gaullism". This is code for a stronger welfare state and an implied retreat from open-market thinking.

The paradox has landed M. Balladur on a collision course with France's youth, of which one in four is out of work. After more than 1.5 million took up his call for "dialogue" and wrote to him of their despair, he promised this week to come up with measures but he will be hard put to avoid disappointing them.

Many thinkers of right and left now want a return to a full-blown nation state. The capitalist jungle, they argue, is bringing misery. France should boast the merits of a system which has created a generous welfare state, a suc-

cessful state-run car maker, the world's most advanced railways and which has been the driving force in the Airbus, the Ariane rocket and the Channel Tunnel.

Recent governments have sold out, said *Le Monde Diplomatique* in a blistering attack this week on the decay of French grandeur. "Everything shows that we have abandoned our singular political project, in which the state and the citizen offered the world an original model of civilisation," it said. "One after the other, the great French traditions in the economy, social relations, national cohesion, defence, foreign policy and culture have been neglected, dismantled and forgotten."

German's gaffe aids anti-EU Finns

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
IN HELSINKI

ONLY days before Finland goes to the polls to decide whether to join the European Union, the anti-Brussels campaign in Helsinki has received an unexpected boost. Klaus Hänsch, the German president of the European Parliament, said in a recent interview that if Finland voted no, it would come back to the European Union years later, cap in hand.

His remark, in the run-up to the Finnish referendum on EU membership on October 16, was used by the anti-Union campaign to good effect: for it touches on the most basic Finnish anxiety about the Union: fear of bullying.

Despite Herr Hänsch's efforts, however, Finns appear to be edging closer towards EU membership, according to the latest opinion polls. Pro-Union campaigners throughout Scandinavia hope that a yes vote would have a domino effect on Sweden and Norway, which are also applying for membership. The outcome in Sweden will be close, but most Scandinavians think that the battle to persuade Norway to join may already be lost.

Herr Hänsch may not be the most gifted of diplomats, but his remark is probably true, since Finland is on its knees economically, and seems resigned to accepting that it can do little about it. During the 1991-93 recession, Finland's economic output fell by 14 per cent; unemployment rose from 3 per cent to 20 per cent; the budget bloated, as did the deficit and the public debt. Having previously been in the economic league of Germany and Luxembourg, Finland suddenly found itself in the economic neighbourhood of Belgium and Italy.

Proponents hope that membership of the EU will release badly needed investment into the economy. By joining Europe's monetary hard core — which the Finnish economic establishment sees as the prize of joining — the country hopes to flatten its economic cycle.

Baku rival removed by Aliyev

Moscow: President Aliyev

moved to strengthen his power in the wake of this week's disturbances in Azerbaijan, dismissing Surat Huseynov as Prime Minister, whom he accused of involvement in an attempted coup (Anatoli Lieven writes).

Colonel Huseynov initially refused to step down until the Baku parliament voted by a large majority to confirm his dismissal. He then left the chamber and said that he was not planning radical action. Faud Huseynov was appointed acting Prime Minister.

Cancer link

Canberra: The Australian government accepted a link between Agent Orange defoliant and cancer, opening the way for up to 2,000 Vietnam War veterans to claim compensation. (Reuters)

Plague toll rises

Delhi: Senior health officials reported four more pneumonic plague deaths yesterday, including three in Surat, Gujarat, raising the national total to 56 in a three-week outbreak. The fourth death was in the state of Maharashtra. (Reuters)

Vietnam plea

Hanoi: Vietnam is seeking emergency international aid for an estimated 500,000 people who were affected by recent floods in the Mekong Delta and the north-central coastal area. (Reuters)

Building block

Kampala: James Juuko, the Ugandan High Commissioner to Nigeria, has absconded with £250,000 reserved for building a new High Commission, the *New Vision* newspaper said. (AFP)

Line of duty

Rome: Irene Pivetti, the Speaker in Italy's lower house, banned cellular phones in the chamber, saying constant ringing and chatting during proceedings obstructed work. (Reuters)



Balladur: says France based on uniformity



Nasreen: government condemned over visa

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A peace force Bosnians to win

slum poverty racks American police force chief

inside armed personal injury

UN peacekeepers force Bosnian troops to withdraw

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

IN AN action unprecedented in the present Balkan troubles, United Nations "blue helmets" have driven 550 Bosnian government troops out of the demilitarised zone south of Sarajevo and blown up their bunkers and trenches.

The move came after UN troops discovered 16 dead Serb soldiers and four nurses who had been killed by Bosnian forces on Thursday.

Initial reports said that the bodies of the dead Serbs had been mutilated, but UN sources retracted that charge yesterday. Lieutenant-Colonel Jacques Lechevallier said that the first UN troops had arrived on the scene an hour after the action "and had had a terrible impression". Four sentries had had their throats cut, but, considering the need for silence during that type of commando raid, UN sources said such action was normal.

The UN troops found six survivors of the attack, including a woman nurse. Afterwards Radovan Karadzic, the

Bosnian Serb leader, threatened to expel UN forces from his self-declared republic saying that they were "not treating us equally with the Muslims and Croats".

Despite the threats it appeared that the Bosnian Serbs were reacting cautiously. A key indicator was that flights into Sarajevo airport, which had been closed for 15 days, resumed yesterday. Just before the deaths the UN had secured guarantees from the Serbs for the reopening.

In Brussels, Nato ambassadors decided to ask Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, to support swift airstrikes against a wider choice of targets if Bosnian Serbs attack peacekeepers or violate safe areas. The tougher airstrike policy, sought especially by the United States and outlined at a meeting of alliance defence ministers in Seville last week, would require a speeding up of response procedures.

The demilitarised zone around Sarajevo was created in August last year after a triumphant Serb advance that drove Bosnian forces out of the areas of Trnovo and most of Mount Igman and Mount Bjelasnica. The mountains overlook the Bosnian capital and the Bosnians have carved a road across Mount Igman that serves as their only supply route to the city.

As Serb forces moved to cut the Igman route, the UN and Nato stepped in and threatened to bomb the Serbs if they did not withdraw. They did pull back on condition that the area they left in the care of the

UN was demilitarised. Since then they have complained constantly that Bosnian forces have encroached on the zone.

In Belgrade, in the meantime, officials fear that the international Contact Group of Russia, Britain, France, Germany and the United States is preparing to offer President Milosevic of Serbia an agonising choice: in exchange for recognising the borders of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, sanctions will be lifted. On Wednesday sanctions were eased, but the trade and oil embargo remains in place.

Speaking in New York, Vladislav Jovanovic, Foreign Minister of the rump Yugoslavia, said that the Bosnian Serbs would most likely accept the present peace plan if sanctions against his country were ended. He added, however, that the government in Belgrade would recognise Bosnia and Croatia's borders "only after they had been recognised by all nations living in their territories".



A Filipino worker in Palo cleaning a statue of General Douglas MacArthur yesterday in preparation for a 50th anniversary celebration of the landing of American and Allied troops on Leyte island to end the Japanese occupation during the Second World War

American sex survey uncovers hotbed of marital bliss

BY JAMES BONE

A NEW study of the sex lives of Americans has found they are less promiscuous than previously thought, and married couples are the happiest in bed. The study was the first to rely

on random sampling rather than volunteers, who might skew results.

Researchers interviewed 3,432 men and women between 18 and 59. The survey suggests that a third of Americans have sex at least twice a week, another third a few times a month,

and one-third only a few times a year or not at all. Only 23 per cent of single

men and women who live alone reported having sex at least twice a week, while 41 per cent of married couples did. Unmarried couples living together reported the highest rate of

sex, with 56 per cent saying they have

intercourse at least twice a week. The median number of sexual partners in a lifetime is six per man and two per woman. One man reported 1,016 partners and one woman 1,009.



Karadzic threatened to expel all UN forces

Haiti slum poverty shocks American police force chief

FROM TOM RHODES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

SECURITY is tight at the Villa St Louis, the Port-au-Prince hotel that serves as command centre for Ray Kelly, the former New York city police commissioner with perhaps the most unenviable task in Haiti.

Armed soldiers guard the entrance night and day, occasionally motioning to a bucket at their side where anyone carrying a weapon must remove the clip and fire a blank chamber. Inside are the force of international police monitors who arrived this week to oversee the delicate mission of suspending, then selectively

destroying, and finally recreating the local police force in a country where tradition has dictated that invariably the cops are simultaneously the robbers.

It is clearly a challenge for Mr Kelly, who was to be found eating a hurried dinner before being flown by helicopter to a American ship with a direct videophone link to the Oval Office. He had been hand-picked by President Clinton for the Haitian operation and the two men are said to meet regularly. They are both aware that if the Kelly mission fails, American troops inevitably will become the new Haitian police force, a role that proved disastrous during the last United States occupation in 1915 and one which the Pentagon has ruled out.

In between mouthfuls of burnt chicken and rice, Mr Kelly, small but powerfully built, appeared tense as one of his lieutenants told him of plans to send a monitoring force to Cap-Haitien, the country's second city. "We mustn't send too many. They [the Haitians] must not feel overwhelmed. It is all about trust," he said. Trust is a rare enough commodity in Haiti. In the demoralised police force, it is all but lost.

When Mr Kelly arrived at the police headquarters in Port-au-Prince earlier this week the reception had been very cool. Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Michel François, the hated chief of police, had just fled the country and his successor, a surly police major, rejected any suggestion of joint patrols between the international monitors and his own men. It took nearly four hours of diplomacy before Mr Kelly personally accompanied a Haitian lieutenant on the first such patrols through one of the poorest districts. He has patrolled some of the worst precincts in New York and had tours in Vietnam and Korea, but nothing had prepared the former US Marine colonel for what he saw in the Haitian slums. "I have never witnessed poverty like I have seen here," he said.

Whether he has the ability to transform the Haitian police remains to be seen. His team of 1,000 international police monitors, along with a separate but parallel United Nations observer trainer force, must keep the Haitian authority intact long enough to prevent a vacuum. □ "Torturer" seized: Jean-Claude Célestin, known as "The Torturer" and alleged to be one of the most brutal pro-regime Anachas, has been captured in Haiti, American sources said. (Reuters)

Aristide spurned personal luxury

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

JEAN-BERTRAND Aristide, who has vowed to return to Haiti's presidential palace by next Saturday, spent millions of dollars on lobbyists and his government-in-exile during three years in Washington, but lavished little on personal luxuries.

Under an order signed by George Bush, the 57-year-old US President, Mr Aristide was granted free access to funds in Haitian accounts that were collected and held by the US Treasury under the sanctions imposed on Haiti after the military coup.

By the middle of last month, \$90 million (£57.7 million) had been put into the frozen fund, including money from aircraft landing fees and international phone calls that American firms would normally have paid to the Haitian government.

Of this, \$50.4 million was withdrawn by Mr Aristide. All he had to do for the money to be made available was to send a lawyer to the Treasury Department and request routine approval from the State Department. Washington did not impose any requirements on how the funds were to be spent. Officials say they are satisfied, however, that the millions were not squandered away for Mr Aristide's personal benefit.

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Kohl aims to see in millennium as leader

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the German Chancellor, predicted confidently yesterday that he would still be ruling his country in 1998 and did not exclude a further term of office that would take him into the next millennium.

The Chancellor, having completed a round of election rallies and survived egg-throwers and hecklers, was in ebullient mood as he gave his last big press conference before the general elections on October 16. The opinion polls bear out his confidence, apart from the weak link of his coalition partner, the Free Democrats. An opinion poll conducted by the Forsa institute said that the Chancellor's Christian Democrats were leading the Social Democrats by 9 percentage points, enough for an absolute majority.

The emphasis of yesterday's conference — a pre-election ritual since he took office in 1982 — was thus rather on what Herr Kohl plans to do after winning yet again. "Thank you for these questions about my future term of office since they assume that I am set for victory," he boomed.

The opposition claims that the Chancellor is getting ready to leave office halfway through the next term, in 1996, when he breaks Konrad Adenauer's record of 14 years in power. The Chancellor brushed aside that charge. "I do not wake up every morning and think how long have I got before I break Adenauer's record. I love life too much for that."

He dodged questions about his intention in 1998 when the next legislative period runs out, but hinted that he might still be in contention. His main priority, he said, was to round off his two principal missions: consolidating German unity and pushing forward European integration.

His comments — dismissed as misguided and perverse optimism by the Social Demo-

crats — raised the question of the possible heirs to the 64-year-old leader.

Rivals have been consistently squashed by the Chancellor during the past 12 years and the only man who now comes close to the status of crown prince is Wolfgang Schäuble, the parliamentary leader of the Christian Democrats.

That would mean a change in emphasis rather than direction: Herr Schäuble is both more nationalist than Herr Kohl and more determined to create a "hard-core" of European states.

The accession of Herr Schäuble, a cold, clever strategic thinker who was crippled in a political assassination attempt in 1990, would not, however, solve the problem within the Christian Democratic Union.

The crushing of rivals by Herr Kohl means the party is now fixated on the Chancellor: it has lost its traditional identity as a catch-all party for market liberals, Christian socialists, businessmen, nationalists and European integrationists.

Younger ministers mentioned as potential successors, such as Matthias Wissman, 45, the Transport Minister, are committed to only one strand of the party and will find it difficult to keep the Christian Democrats intact, let alone lead it.

□ EU enlargement: Herr Kohl said yesterday that the European Union should set a timetable for membership of Eastern European countries at its inter-governmental conference in 1996.

The Chancellor said the meeting would be the moment of truth "when our neighbouring countries must know that they are wanted. No later than that point a timetable should be drawn up for enlargement," he said, adding that Germany's frontier with Poland could not be allowed to remain the EU's eastern border. (Reuters)



Radar imaging of the Klyuchevskaya volcano in the east Russian peninsula of Kamchatka taken earlier this week by the space shuttle Endeavour. Klyuchevskaya Sopka, the bright

white peak surrounded by red slopes at the bottom left of the picture, erupted last Friday spewing ash 65,000 ft into the air and disrupting international flights from North

America to Southeast Asian countries. The computer image was taken by the Spaceborne Imaging Radar-C and X-band Synthetic Aperture Radar devices. An older

volcano, which is dormant, appears in the top right hand corner of the picture, above the Kamchatka river, which runs from left to right.

Zhirinovsky boycotts Duma

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

VLADIMIR Zhirinovsky, the nationalist firebrand, yesterday attempted to paralyse the country's political system when he stormed out of parliament with his supporters over a dispute with President Yeltsin.

In a move intended to hijack the new session of the Duma, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party said he was suspending his participation in the chamber in protest at what he claimed was a cam-

paign of victimisation by the Kremlin. "Our party is being persecuted, stifled and repressed everywhere," Mr Zhirinovsky said. He added that he was also withdrawing from the Kremlin's Civic Accord treaty, which he signed earlier this year. The LDP's action was supported by the Agrarian Party. Together, the two parties represent more than 100 deputies. If they sustain their boycott, they could seriously hamper the

passing of 200 new items of legislation now before the 450-seat assembly.

The discrimination issue came to a head on Monday when a plane carrying Mr Zhirinovsky to North Korea was refused permission to land in the western Siberian town of Kemerovo. The local authorities claimed the runway was under repairs, but Mr Zhirinovsky insisted that the move was part of an orchestrated plot against him.

Yeltsin regrets Irish 'mix-up'

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin of Russia apologised yesterday to Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, for a diplomatic gaffe at Shannon airport and said it was all due to an "annoying mix-up".

Mr Reynolds was kept waiting on the runway last Friday when the Russian leader failed to appear during his stopover on the flight back to Moscow from Washington. His place was taken by Oleg Soskovets, a Deputy Prime Minister. In a

letter to Mr Reynolds, the text of which was issued by Mr Yeltsin's office, the Kremlin leader said: "I sincerely regret that our meeting at Shannon did not take place because of an annoying mix-up."

However, the letter, dated October 7, did not offer any further explanation, although it included an invitation to Mr Reynolds to visit Russia. Official explanations have ranged from him being unwell or too tired after a summit meeting

in Washington to a mix-up on board the plane that led to bodyguards not waking him. Earlier this week a Communist deputy in the Russian parliament linked the incident to what he claimed was Mr Yeltsin's fondness for drink.

Viktor Ilyukhin, the chairman of the Duma's security committee, said that President Yeltsin was an alcoholic and called for his health to be investigated by an independent commission.

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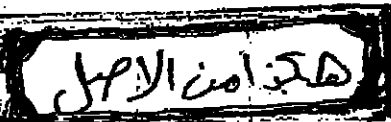
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US joins Britain in backing Saudi economic reform

THE United States yesterday joined Britain in publicly supporting Saudi Arabia after the Clinton Administration insisted that American investments in the kingdom were secure despite the huge Saudi budget deficit.

Lloyd Bentsen, the US Treasury Secretary, told businessmen at the end of a two-day visit to Jeddah that King Fahd had promised to cut spending and reduce the deficit. He said after meeting the King that he was "very impressed" with the monarch's commitment to privatisation.

"I came away with the firm belief that investments here are secure, and that the Saudis are interested in additional investment," he said.

Mr Bentsen did not discuss liquidity problems with Saudi officials, however, according to the Saudi Press Agency. The Saudi government, still struggling to pay for the Gulf War, has proposed a cut of almost 20 per cent in the budget. But it has not announced any plans for an income tax or any curb on the high spending of many of the royal princes.

America and Britain are worried that Saudi retrenchment may affect their huge exports to the kingdom which, after Hong Kong, is Britain's largest export market outside the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. An increasing number of Western companies operating in Saudi Arabia have not been paid for months.

Mr Bentsen discussed the impact of budget cuts on Saudi exports and imports with Muhammad Ali Abal-
Satellite plan is opposed

Washington: A bipartisan group of 64 American senators said yesterday that they opposed granting an export licence for a Saudi Earth station for an oil exploration satellite, to be launched in 1997, because they feared it could be used against Israel. (Reuters)

Khalil, the Oil Minister, said afterwards that Saudi Arabia was committed to "adjusting to new economic realities".

King Fahd has accepted an invitation to visit the United States, but no date has been set. Washington is said to be nervous about the recent ar-



Dame Joan Sutherland, the opera singer, speaking in support of the monarchy in Sydney. "I am a very ardent supporter of the monarchy and I can't imagine not having our wonderful allegiance to our heritage, to our Queen and to our right to have this wonderful, wonderful on-going connection with home."

Diva upsets republicans

said Dame Joan, who lives in Switzerland. Her defence of the monarchy drew a rebuff from Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, who wants to turn Australia into a republic. As an expatriate, he said, she cannot be expected to have "contemporary views of Australia". Dame Joan, 67, also enraged non-British immigrant groups by complaining that she often had to deal with Australian government officials of Chinese or Indian origin when renewing her passport. (AP)

Abiola rejects offer of bail

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MOSHOO Abiola, the Nigerian opposition leader on trial for treason, has vowed to die in jail rather than accept an offer of bail in exchange for dropping his claim to the presidency, his lawyer says.

Chief Abiola, who is presumed to have won annulled presidential elections in June last year, was seized after declaring himself President on the first anniversary of the poll on June 12. However, widespread unrest and strikes that followed his arrest have abated and his claim to the leadership is believed to be running out of steam. Any deal to win bail could end his ambitions, observers said yesterday.

Chief Abiola, 57, is reported to be in poor health and now faces a long stay in prison after the federal high court of appeal in Kaduna adjourned indefinitely rulings on whether to free him on bail and on the competence of the special federal high court set up to try him in the federal capital, Abuja.

"Many people inside and outside the country see him as not fit to be President," Ahmed Rajab, editor of *Africa Analysis*, said. "That is why there has not been more internal or international pressure on his behalf. They are suspicious of the way he did business."

Japanese finalise ten-year budget

FROM REUTERS
IN TOKYO

JAPAN yesterday finalised plans to spend \$6.30 trillion (£4 trillion) in the decade starting April 1995 on public works projects, but left open the thorny question of how to fund the sum.

The debate fuelled fears that the ambitious programme, which aims to shore up an economy just recovering from a severe recession and to provide for Japan's ageing population, would worsen the shaky state finances.

The new plan, endorsed by the Cabinet, would replace a \$4.30 trillion spending plan being implemented over the ten years from 1991-2. "Given weak tax revenues, Japan cannot help issue more government bonds, which may darken the budgetary picture," Kazutaka Kirishima, an economist, said.

Japan hopes the new spending will also cut its vast current account surplus. "I expect the plan to lead to a meaningful cut in Japan's surplus and boost domestic demand," Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Trade Minister, said.

Leading article, page 21

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Germany reclaims its past

Anne McElvoy on Chancellor Kohl's appeal to the emotions

Chancellor Kohl's private office in Bonn is an unremarkable modern building with wide, modern windows overlooking the Rhine. In the distance, he can see the elegant ruins of the medieval Hambacher Castle, where in 1832, at the height of the Romantic period, the student associations of the quarrelsome principalities first forswore internal strife and vowed to create a unified and free Germany.

Few visitors escape without hearing a treatise on the majesty of the Rhine and how it symbolises continuity in a history marked by abrupt breaks and lurches. One British visitor looked up in the middle of such a speech to see the Chancellor unselfconsciously wiping away large tears.

It is impossible to contemplate this scene without being reminded of the influence of German Romanticism on the politics of the Federal Republic. Helmut Kohl's emotional reaction to the Rhine, or the Castle or the German flag would be unthinkable without the background of that movement. Its emphasis on personal feelings, in political life, on history as the alembic of present action and on ideas not expressible within the confines of the rationalist tradition are all personified in Kohl.

With the general election now only a week away, Germany must choose whether to carry on with the Chancellor they know or to take a chance on the uncharismatic challenger, Rudolf Scharping of the Social Democratic Party. Scharping's main election poster shows him alone. Kohl's poster, by contrast, shows him in a crowd which is pressing in on him. He is affable and relaxed. The message is that he is at one with his people, and the Chancellor is confident that this sense of belonging will carry him through a difficult vote.

Even his supporters agree that Kohl is a stolid pragmatist, a wily party manager and string-puller, rather than a charismatic leader. Admitting that he is hardly an exceptional character, his latest biographer makes a desperate comparison: "After all... John Major is no more urbane or interesting than Helmut Kohl." Kohl's success is usually explained in terms of his ability to sit out crises, his sense of timing and his finger-in-the-wind decision-making. But he is also skilled in the handling of sentiment and the use of symbolism to feed the hunger in the soul of his people for such emotions — however much they pretend to be rationalist sophisticates.

"He is a man who thinks not in the categories of abstract logic, but analogously — in pictures," wrote *Der Spiegel's* chief Kohl-watcher, Jürgen Leinemann, back in 1992. This is exactly right, but most Germans prefer not to acknowledge it. The influence of Romanticism and associated national sentiment in politics has been denied since the war. Any suggestion that irrational influences, which were so dreadfully perverted in National Socialism, still operate at the heart of German democracy causes near-panic. Hence the infantile jokes

about Kohl which scorn him as a bumbling idiot. After three terms in power and the diplomatic coup de théâtre which secured the unity of the Rhine, it is abundantly clear that Kohl is very far from an imbecile; but the jokes go on (eight books of them are currently on sale) because his critics would rather not face up to what really makes people vote for "Pear-head".

Kohl instinctively knows how to exploit the continuities as well as the caesurae in German history. He is, above all, a Wilhelminian figure — mixing national pathos, sentimentality and stiltedness — and, despite the pretence that 1945 represented a complete cultural break, Germany still has traces of its Wilhelminian past, particularly in the countryside and small towns, and in the east. Even the former Communists of the Democratic Socialist Party, his sworn enemies, have tacitly accepted this, as evinced by their caricature of Kohl as Kaiser Bill — an attempt to show him striving to revive a dangerous *Grossmacht*.

But his ability to act as a bridge between the Germany of the first unification and that of the second has a little acknowledged appeal to voters at a time of uncertainty about Germany's identity.

In his private as well as his public life, Kohl embraces the Romantic tradition. Holidays are spent rambling near the Wolfgangsee in Austria, a traditional pilgrimage for nature lovers.

He enjoys the idea of the German state as an extended family: even before 1989 he used to refer to the German Fatherland and call the East Germans "our brothers and sisters". On his travels around the country, his aides carry large home-cured sausages, ready for his snack-attacks. The Chancellor takes out his pocket-knife, cuts the sausage into chunks and ceremoniously hands it out to his companions. "These are his happiest moments," says a sometime participant at these simple feasts.

With his love of home and hearth, Kohl often tips over into the realms of Romanticism's wan offspring, the *Biedermeier* period. His promise to the East of "blooming landscapes" had about it the winning quality of bad pastoral poetry. Chancellor Kohl must know that his fate at this election is more uncertain than ever before, and that 14 years in office is a mixed blessing. Goethe, in his old age, castigated the fickle nature of success in his poem, "The Years".

A charming crowd, I would say. Bring me gifts tomorrow to match bounty yesterday... Then all of a sudden change their mind. No longer oblige, no longer are they kind. Won't give you gifts, won't let you borrow. Take from you today, rob you tomorrow. But as Kohl concludes his wanderings through the unified nation's marketplaces and beerhalls, he does not look like a man unduly bothered by the pessimism of such poetry. Is Romanticism Dangerous? See page 6.

Aides carry home-cured sausages, ready for his snack-attacks

Margot Norman says institutionalising ever-younger children will not produce better citizens

Nursery can't make up for bad parents

Is John Major really planning to pull a £680 million rabbit out of the hat at next week's party conference, in the shape of a programme for universal nursery education? The rumour mill is that this is the magic trick that he is planning, and expectations among the nursery education lobby — a broad one these days, taking in a fair swath of industry and commerce — are rising feverishly.

Last Christmas they heard him talk enthusiastically of redeeming Margaret Thatcher's 22-year-old promise of nursery education for all, and since then they have seen education department officials scurrying about collecting data and advice on implementing such a programme.

The Royal Society of Arts did much of the work for them by gathering together experts and interested parties and producing a comprehensive report, entitled *Start Right*, last spring. Its author, Sir Christopher Ball, who made an eloquent case in this newspaper on Monday, regards nursery schooling for three to five-year-olds as a social priority in the class of clean water, vaccination and free elections.

Naturally if you see it like that you won't ask whether it is affordable. The question is, how many people — and more particularly, how many of the Tory faithful — do see nursery

schooling as an unduckable priority worth more than half a billion of public funds? No doubt they accept that it is a vote-winner with the electorate at large, but are they in their hearts convinced that it is either necessary or even a Good Thing?

In short, is the early institutionalisation of children who ought to be at home with their mothers, venturing out occasionally to a nice little playgroup run by volunteers, really the sort of thing that the party of the family should be mixed up with? And anyway, hasn't the research on the effects of all this been a bit equivocal?

Perhaps the nearest response to the doubters is to quote Jean Ensor, a former school inspector, who says that what nursery education provides in a society like ours is what the Third World takes for granted. Three-year-olds don't need nursery schools when they have grandmothers, aunts and

uncles to take them into the fields and show them the meaning of work, order and respect, the boundaries of safety, danger and anti-social behaviour, and even how to develop the limbs God gave them.

Things have changed so rapidly in this country that thousands upon thousands of small children now receive almost none of this early education at home. They have social contact with one single, isolated adult who with the best will in the world is an inadequate role-model. They are not even taken to run about in the park any more, because parks are seen as unsafe places. They arrive at school barely able to talk, and in the sort of physical condition you would expect of a child whose only chance to run about has been in a supermarket aisle.

Trying to distinguish between "care" and "education" is fatuous with this age group, which is partly

why the current division of responsibility between departments of education and social services is pernicious. If you are poor, you can only get your child into a nursery school by beating it hard enough and often enough to attract the attention of the social services. We are not talking about teaching children the three Rs from the age of three, we are talking about rearranging our institutions and priorities so that they can develop normally in this peculiar new society.

Like young animals, young children need the opportunity to acquire basic physical and social skills at given ages and stages: missing the boat means problems later, sometimes much later. Research bears this out, most convincingly in the case of the American High/Scope programme, which has followed two large groups of poor, inner-city children (one nursery-schooled, the

other not) through into adulthood and discovered a "pay-back" for the cost of nursery schooling that gets larger with every year. In terms of crime, unemployment and other expensive manifestations of not getting on very well in life, that pay-back amounts by the age of 27 to more than \$7 for every dollar invested.

Continentalers have always seen the point of nursery education, and they have also seen another point which the Royal Society of Arts report grasps firmly. Why is Britain out of step with all of Europe, and indeed with most of the world, in starting compulsory schooling at five instead of six, or even seven? Our children have an extra year of full-time education, and yet their results are demonstrably worse. So what are we doing wrong? Missing out on part-time nursery education, that's what.

The French started their system of *écoles maternelles* in the last century, and the Germans invented the idea of the Kindergarten. It is striking that even in Germany, where mothers cleave to *Kinder* and *Küche* and far fewer go out to work than here, the goal is to have nursery places for all by 1996. So why aren't we just stepping into line and putting the money that could be saved by raising the starting age to six towards meeting the needs of three to five-year-olds?

Down to the last collar-stud

Why should others bail out Lloyd's names who took a gamble too far?

The scene on the Law Courts steps last week was that well-known photo-call for British justice, a plaintiff "jumping for joy". The law had shown neither fear nor favour; the rich were as entitled to its protection as the poor. Michael Deeny had won his case against the Lloyd's Gooda Walker agency on behalf of over 3,000 names. Owing to the proven negligence of their agents, they can try to recoup more than £500 million in losses on hurricane and maritime claims in the late 1980s. It was the biggest civil action in legal history. Mr Deeny was scathing about Lloyd's in his moment of triumph: "I thought I was joining something safe and conservative... Lloyd's is the only casino in the world where after you walk out they follow you and try to take your house away."

They do indeed. I imagine I was approached by Lloyd's in much the same way as Mr Deeny. The encounter was casual — it was in a train — and the man was straight-forward and not pushy. He passed the time of day, ascertained my profession and volunteered his. He then asked, "Have you ever thought of joining Lloyd's?" I recall that verb well. I knew others who had "joined". Some even implied that an unseen hand had "put us into Lloyd's", as if a rich uncle had just died. Their wives would murmur at dinner about this "adorable little cheque" that arrived each year about school fees time.

Part of the thrill of being a Lloyd's name was that shiver of excitement. "Of course we could lose everything," they say they can take you down to the last collar-stud. "It was shame-free gambling because the unlimited liability was what Mr Deeny called 'a quaint tradition'." Nobody was ever asked for collateral. Lloyd's veting committee was stern. You had to "show" £50,000 (my day), excluding the family home. But a bank guarantee would do, and nobody asked what the bank might take as collateral.

By the end of our journey, my new friend was glowing with the benefits of membership. I felt like Tamino at the gates of Zarastro's castle. I had only to play the magic flute and easy money was mine. But the old wisdom held me back: if a man in a pub offers you a "dead cert" at Newmarket, first ask why? Human nature is not given to gratuitous generosity. Free lunches presage costly dinners.

I think Mr Justice Phillips was

kind to Mr Deeny and his friends. He found that Gooda Walker had been run "negligently" in failing to honour their "implied contractual duty of care". They had not adequately reinsured the four syndicates hit by Piper Alpha, Hurricane Hugo and Exxon Valdez. There was no question of fraud or dishonesty, nor did the names claim it. The judge simply agreed with them that Gooda Walker had "gambled recklessly with the names' homes and the names' businesses". So they could keep their houses and collar-studs after all.

So who pays for the storm damage and the hurricanes, not to mention the billions more of suits likely to be settled out of court? Lloyd's might like to regard this as victimless negligence. As with signatures on a Trollopian debt, the liabilities will go slithering back round the insurance market. But who really pays, so that 3,000 Lloyd's names do not have to sell their houses? Insurers will argue that in a "fiercely competitive" market

these extra losses will not be passed on to the public in premiums. Profit-margins will be squeezed. Foreign corporations will be hit. Little of this reinsurance affects the personal market. I wonder. Whatever else an underwriter may squeeze, it is rarely a margin. Lloyd's is indeed a casino where they try to take your house. If it fails to get your house, it must find someone else's.

Gooda Walker names took not one risk but two. They put their entire wealth at the disposal of a highly specialised and dangerous part of the world insurance market: catastrophe insurance involving unlimited liability. Premium income flowed into this business without those supplying the assets having to lift a finger. The only price was, or should have been, the "quaint tradition" of liability.

The second risk was no less wild. It was to place this first risk with what we had better call a most distinctive group of gentlemen. They were dashing characters, not natural wearers of seat-belts. They underwrote risks that defied assessment or adjustment. They rode roller-coasters such as long-tail, stop-loss, time-and-distance. But Gooda Walker's mavericks had a ride to end all rides. It was the "LMAX spiral", concentrating on catastrophe. It had names queuing to join.



The insurance market's beginnings in an 18th-century coffee-house, as drawn by David Gentlemen.

This was not a flutter on the Derby. It was not even the top table at the Claremont. Lloyd's names were betting on the behaviour of the planet, on hurricanes and earthquakes, on asbestos, radiation and oil pollution. With a big enough premium, they would have bet against the end of the world. With whom did they place their bets? With the most reckless corner of an institution that had already lobbied its exclusion from the Financial Services Act and won self-regulation in an act of its own (in 1982). This exclusion was described in the House of Lords as "a privilege unequalled in the world of commerce". One lady pleaded last week, "I didn't know it was my job to hang over my member's agent. I don't do that to my bank manager." She did not ask her bank manager to gamble her net wealth each day.

I carry no brief for Gooda Walker, Outhwaite, Feltrim or the rest of them. I am sorry for those names who have suffered hardship. But when they shout "negligence" at those who danced with them down this merry road, I cough politely and

look the other way. The business was so chancy that the word negligence is inappropriate. Should the reinsurance have been higher? That would have hurt the profit. How can you be careful when determined to walk across a field in which a nuclear mine has been planted? Never was a gambler so warned of his possible debt: "Liable down to the last collar-stud." Some 17,000 Lloyd's gamblers are now suing their agents for £35 billion of relief from liability. More than £100 million is reportedly being laid out on lawyers' fees. Why should the rest of the world have its premiums, or the price of goods and services, taxed to let them off the hook?

Last spring, the governors of Lloyd's offered the names a take-or-leave-it £900 million for hardship, on condition that they accept their contractual liabilities. The money came from the Central Fund, which was intended for use in cases where names failed to pay and policyholders were left without cover. In other words, the fund was for customers in difficulty, not for names in difficulty. The Gooda Walker names refused

the offer, and went to court. They now have satisfaction, although how much money they will actually get depends on how much reinsurance the Gooda Walker and similar agencies have against claims of this kind. All that the names have now proved is that Lloyd's liability can after all be limited, provided you pour a libation to the Goddess Negligence, and can pass the buck to someone else.

I find the Lloyd's saga extraordinary. Seizable people who would never go near a betting shop, a dog track or the Monte Carlo casino were seized by a collective madness. In the mid-1980s, more than 30,000 members of the British middle classes hurled themselves into a tureen of the South Sea Bubble and the Great Crash. They fell under the spell of *Martinez* and invited the ruin of their generation. Now they are selling their estates, their houses, their pictures, their boats. It is a redistribution of bourgeois property to lift the heart of a socialist.

Perhaps this is just the British way of revolution. Perhaps it always has been.

Hurd instinct

THE PRINCESS of Wales has turned for advice to one of the most experienced hands in the diplomacy business. She has been recently spotted in the Foreign Office, where she had a meeting with Douglas Hurd.

The subject of their discussion remains unclear. Neither the Foreign Office nor Buckingham Palace will give any indication of what was said but they confirm that the meeting took place. There have been suggestions, however, that Hurd was offering avuncular advice about James Hewitt's sordid claims.

Few are better qualified to help than the twenty Old Etonian. Hurd has undergone a divorce himself, and the diplomatic expertise of a man who gained Margaret Thatcher's respect even after nailing his colours to Edward Heath's mast cannot be doubted. He has survived in Cabinet for more than a decade and claims to be an avowed supporter of all things British.

The true answer to why I am a Conservative is not political at all,

he once said. "All my life has been formed by the institutions of this country and, because I think them admirable, I believe they should be preserved."

The former treasurer of the Tory party, Lord McAlpine, offered a warning: "Why take advice from a politician? It seems that the Church has more to do with this matter." A

DO YOU THINK THEY'D HAVE JEREMY HANLEY?



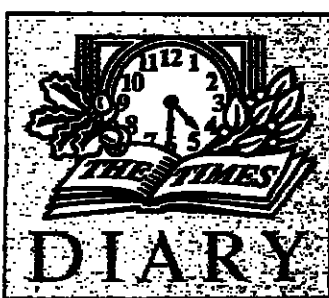
Foreign Office source suggested that future foreign trips might also have been discussed. "He wanted to come in and talk about this and that. He's a pretty seasoned Cabinet minister and there was a general discussion."

No one will be more dismayed at the recent cancellation of the Pope's visit to New York than street vendors hoping to cash in. *Papal ephemera* such as "Pope on a Rope" soap and "Let Us Spray" lawn sprinklers will, they fear, prove difficult to shift.

Frozen out

INSIGHT into the royal family can be gleaned from *A Mingled Measure*, the latest volume of diaries written by James Lees-Milne, an aesthete regarded by Alan Clark as the best diarist of the century. He recalls the dinner in 1972 at Rules restaurant in Covent Garden after the premiere of a John Bejman film on Australia: the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret joined him at the table.

I hardly spoke a word to the Royals, but watched them closely. Prince Charles is very charming,



and very polite, shook hands with us all and smiled. PM is far from charming, is cross, exacting, too sophisticated and sharp. She is physically attractive in a bun-like way, with trussed up bosom, and hair like two cottage loaves, one balancing on the other... She smoked continuously and did not talk to John [Bejman] once.

Low achiever

ANYONE wondering why Michael Heseltine has not yet made it to Number 10 need only turn to a book by his former sports coach at Shrewsbury, Michael Charlesworth. His memoirs, *Behind the Headlines*, include details of

Heseltine's abortive attempt to win the school athletics crown. Charlesworth, now retired, remembers Heseltine as "someone who never quite got to the top of any particular ladder. He was not stupid or without ability. He just couldn't reach the top."

The high jump, it appears, was his speciality, and Charlesworth coached him eagerly. "He represented the school at the end of term. Then, at the last moment, the football captain came and defeated him. He was rather deflated."



Saunders: tart remark

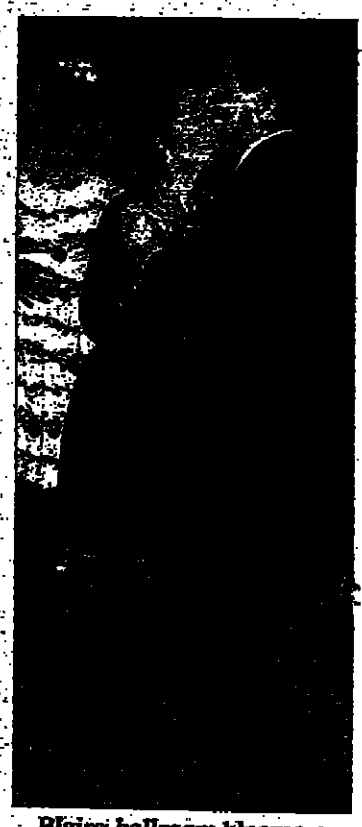
Nonetheless, the practice served him well. He later became Minister for Aerospace.

Left feet

YESTERDAY'S exhibition of jive on the platform by John Prescott and his wife Pauline outshone that of Tony and Cherie Blair, who performed their dance at Labour's Scottish evening last Monday. It was a clumsy slow waltz: ballroom enthusiasts described it as a nervous shuffle.

Tony's tap-dancing namesake, Lionel Blair, offers his services: "I would love to give him lessons — it would be The Two Blairs. Just don't expect me to take my clothes off, like Cherie Blair's assistant." Presenting awards for British Fashion Week at the Natural History Museum on Thursday night was Jennifer Saunders — and she wouldn't have given clothes designer Jeff Banks any prizes for style. "Is that a serviette you're wearing?" she inquired of the fluff white bow tie flapping like a towel around his neck.

P.H.S



Blair: ballroom bloomers



LESSON FROM JAPAN

Japan is rebuilding itself, but not just through state spending

The Japanese government announced plans yesterday to spend 630 trillion yen, equivalent to roughly £4,000 billion or eight times Britain's entire gross domestic product, on transport investment, information super-highways, new housing, cultural centres and other public works projects.

The purpose, according to the government, is not only to mollify the Clinton Administration which has been demanding ever more extravagant measures to reduce the imbalance in trade between the two countries, but also to change the lives of the Japanese. The long-term ambition is nothing less than to transform Japan by the early 21st century from a mere economic powerhouse into a "lifestyle superpower".

Among Western observers the instinctive response to such grandiose declarations is cynicism. Even before they get round to sniggering about the quaint concept of a "lifestyle superpower", American economists and politicians are sceptically combing their way through the figures, noting that they include too little in the way of "new money" from the government.

The £4,000 billion will be spent over ten years and therefore amounts to an annual expenditure of only £400 billion, or 15 per cent of Japan's GDP. And much of this investment will be undertaken and financed by the private sector, rather than the State. Furthermore, the new investment programme, covering the ten years to March 2005, replaces another launched in 1991 that sounded almost as spectacularly ambitious — and another before that. All this investment did not prevent Japan from sinking into its deepest recession in the post-war period, nor avert the ugly trade skirmishes and currency crises which have dominated Japan's relations with America.

Neither have the pharisaic-sounding public works announced by successive Japanese governments apparently done much to improve the lot of the average Japanese salaryman. He still lives in a house that is small by international standards, travels to work in appalling congestion,

works very long hours, enjoys few holidays and is denied some of the most basic physical amenities which Westerners take for granted. The statistics show, for example, that only 44 per cent of Japanese houses are connected to mains sewerage and on average they are 20 per cent smaller than in Europe. Residents of Tokyo have access to only 2.5 square metres of open space per capita, compared with 30 square metres in London and 19 square metres in New York.

But Western statistical bean-counters are probably missing the point when it comes to Japan's plans for public investment and social transformation. To counteract the West's jaded quips about "workaholics living in rabbit hutchies", the Japanese can cite some astonishingly impressive social statistics, say on crime, education, health, culture or pollution. More importantly, the West should not underestimate Japan's sense of purpose once it arrives at its celebrated consensus on some new national goal — nor its ability to achieve national objectives by galvanising private enterprise, instead of just relying on government.

Americans and Europeans laugh at their peril about strange-sounding phrases like "lifestyle superpower" and "softomics" (the Japanese term for what they believe will be the economics of the future, based not on physical output, but on the creation of intellectual products, or "software" in the broadest sense). The Japanese have well understood the need to rebuild their economic and social institutions, as well as their physical infrastructure, to adapt to the electronic age. And they seem to know how to do this without destroying their social fabric or allowing an uncontrolled expansion of the public sector, which remains far smaller than it is in Europe and comparable in size to that of the US.

Instead of uttering about Japan's extravagant promises and odd-sounding rhetoric, the West should study its system of partnership between the public and private sectors as closely as it studies Japanese manufacturing techniques.

SOCIETY AND SOLICITORS

The legal profession struggles to keep pace with change

Members of the Law Society are in unhappy mood as they gather in London for their annual conference. Discontented with their shrinking takings (90 per cent of solicitors, it is said, earn less than an average GP), they are expected to give a torrid time to their new president, Charles Elly. Since Mr Elly is not to blame, they would do well to look instead at ways in which they might become more competitive.

As members of a monopolistic profession, and as essential purveyors of legal services to the public, it would be wrong of solicitors to expect the Law Society to acquire the contours of a trade union. Of course the society possesses a certain dimension of the guild; but its primary character — which some argue should be its only character — is that of a self-regulatory body.

The main object of the society is to ensure that the profession is manned by practitioners of integrity and professional skill. The rules of the society complement those of the 1974 Solicitors Act and regulate the keeping of accounts, advertisement, insurance and disciplinary procedures. In doing so, the society discharges an important public duty: it acts, effectively, as an ethical watchdog and in the consumer interests of the litigant. Mr Elly has sought to turn the annual conference to his advantage by stressing that any loss of focus here would only harm the wider interests of the profession as a whole. His words deserve quotation: "The challenge for me as President is to find the right ways to serve both

the profession and the public. I reject entirely the notion that we should retreat into an exclusive self-serving pressure group."

Those solicitors who espouse the "trade union" approach to their society's functions do so largely for financial reasons. The decision in April by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, to impose drastic cuts in the budget for legal aid has hit the high street solicitor hard. Yet few have shown the initiative to reduce costs. The profession has largely failed to accept that the Lord Chancellor had no option but to confront the problem of soaring bills. The legal aid bill to the taxpayer for this year alone is set to reach £1.4 billion.

A prolonged recession has led to a drop in income for solicitors from sources such as conveyancing. Moreover, the decision by the Government to end the century-old monopoly which solicitors enjoyed, but from which the consumer emerged second-best, has never been accepted by the profession's rank and file. In fact, there is even an element which yearns for a return to the Dark Ages when there was a fixed-scale fee for conveyancing and solicitors were disciplined if they charged less.

The Law Society has now to grapple with the crucial matter of its own trajectory. It cannot protect the public effectively and act as a trade union at the same time. There is an inherent tension between the two roles. Its president has grasped this point: it is time for the majority of its members to do so too.

END OF A CAMPAIGN

Oxford's fundraising success is a model to other universities

When Oxford launched its fundraising initiative in 1988, it was said that the nation's oldest university was luring younger institutions of higher education on to ground on which Oxford would always win. Today, it is clear that Oxford has done its young rivals a considerable favour. The achievements of the Campaign for Oxford, which ended last week, have shown how quickly private funds chase success. The ancient universities have an obvious advantage in this respect: as long as they live up to their reputation as centres of excellence, they will continue to attract generous support from outside. But that does not mean that other institutions cannot compete.

Dr Henry Drucker, who directed the Campaign for Oxford for five years, deserves praise for the aggressive pragmatism with which it was conducted. When an initial target of £220 million was suggested, many in the university were deeply scornful. That target was eventually raised to £340 million, and has now been exceeded. More than 100 academic posts have been created as a result of the campaign, including more than 30 professorships. An exercise that was first ridiculed as a surrender to Thatcherite doctrine has, in practice, enriched Oxford life forever.

Two lessons emerge from this spectacular success. First, universities must cast their net widely. The campaign received more than 1,000 donations from sponsors who were not alumni of the university. Some will have given money to Oxford for reasons of

social cachet. Most, however, will have sent their cheques rather more sincerely, because they believed in the projects they were backing.

Secondly, university campaigns benefit from specific targets. In the last six years, for example, the Institute for American Studies and the Institute for European Studies have been supported passionately by small groups of dons and outside patrons. Both projects will continue to benefit from the planned university development programme, which will continue the work of the campaign after its conclusion. By selecting clear objectives, the campaign's organisers ensured that its work was not wasted.

Heresy quickly becomes orthodoxy in educational circles, as elsewhere. When the campaign was launched, it remained a dictum of higher education that the only legitimate form of provision was state provision. Now, it is widely accepted that university funding requires a mixed economy, in which the private sector plays a significant role as the taxpayer. Nottingham University, for instance, raises more than £60 million a year from private business; it has a thriving alumni association. The London School of Economics has hired a new fundraising team. Bristol University persists with its own campaign. Institutions which have long assumed that the State will provide are now broadening their horizons. It is essential that they take heart from Oxford's success and see it as an inspiration, not an exception.

Implications of a minimum wage

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, Discussion at the Labour Party conference on a minimum wage, as you pointed out in your leader ("Maximum wage", October 4), represented a consideration of its likelihood to increase unemployment, inflation and prices.

Mr Blair's desire to avoid mentioning any specific figure for a minimum wage, which he states would be introduced "sensibly and flexibly", is a further attempt to bury the discussion until after the general election. It conflicts with Mr Blair's accompanying statement that "those most in need of hope deserve the truth".

The impact of such a policy in the UK is likely to be particularly damaging to the young. Studies by Professor Walter Williams, of the George Mason University, Virginia, show that minimum wage policies have been particularly damaging to the young, black and educationally unqualified, who are rejected for employment if the employer finds the wage rate unrealistic.

And of course, a minimum wage would be just a jumping-off point for trade unions whose members are in work.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS,
49 Ordance Hill, NW8,
October 5.

From Mr Victor Serebriakoff

Sir, Many of the longest-term unemployed lack training, skills or learning ability. Others are old, handicapped or have a bad record. They are seen as less productive and/or more difficult by a prospective employer. Only at lower wages can they be employed economically.

A wages "floor" already exists in effect: it is the sum of benefits a claimant can get while unemployed. The present level of "minimum wages" is the level above that floor, such that the claimant will gain enough by working. His or her hope of employment is the offer of a job above that minimum level which nevertheless makes it economic for the employer.

A government-enforced minimum would certainly be higher than that marginal level. It would raise the threshold of ability required to justify it and thus cut off a section of the unemployed from the chance of work. The higher the minimum the bigger the slice of the long-term unemployed who would lose the chance of work.

Yours etc,
VICTOR SEREBRIAKOFF,
Flat One,
6 The Paragon, SE3,
October 4.

From Dr Valerie Goldberg

Sir, Within the lifetime of many of your readers £4 a week was a sufficient wage for a man to support a family in comfort. Doesn't a series of governments which has brought us to the state where a wage of £4 an hour is considered the minimum necessary deserve condemnation?

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE GOLDBERG,
6 Hollycroft Avenue,
Wembley, Middlesex,
October 4.

Haiti food riots

From Mr Malcolm R. Arthurs

Sir, In response to David Adams's report of October 3, "Marines keep Haiti food rioters at bay", I can confirm through Don DeHart that two ships did arrive at Cap-Haitien with UN food. It has however, been taken straight to warehouses and locked up with no word how or when it will be distributed to the unfortunate victims of a three-year trade embargo. Can one expect anything other than riots and looting?

The partly British-funded relief operation, For Haiti with Love, and its leader, Don DeHart, have remained in Haiti when virtually all other organisations pulled out at the beginning of the embargo. In that three-year period the cost of running the organisation has been sustained at black market prices. Sanctions have been lifted, but nothing will change until Aristide is back in the country; the Port au Prince International Airport is "open for commercial traffic" but the first plane will not be cleared for landing until at least October 12. Announcements are being made, but nothing has changed for the poor.

Yours etc,
MALCOLM R. ARTHURS,
c/o Mrs Don (Eva) DeHart,
4767 Simcoe Street,
Palm Harbor FL 34683, USA,
October 7.

Feel-good buys

From Mrs Allison Musker

Sir, Apropos extravagant buys [letters, October 5, 7] my grandmother would relish an embellishing new hat. I myself buy the very best sable water-colour paint-brush and come out of the art shop feeling a queen.

Yours faithfully,
ALLISON MUSKER,
South Orchard, Hurst,
Reading, Berkshire,
October 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Contested views on organic farming

From Mr Gordon Angell

Sir, Your report (October 4) on organic farming contains several misconceptions current among enthusiasts for "natural" methods. In effect organic produce receives the same level of support as conventionally farmed food.

A long-term programme being introduced throughout the European Union to encourage environmentally beneficial farming provides extra subsidies to make this method viable. In July the Ministry of Agriculture announced a scheme specifically to subsidise farmers converting to organic production.

Nitrates in animal manure are exactly the same as those in chemical produced fertilisers and cause considerable pollution: ask the Dutch about their pig manure "mountains". People who claim to be concerned with welfare seem prepared to allow animals to suffer discomfort and even pain from parasites and disease because they are against the use of modern preventives.

Mr Jonathan Dimbleby claimed that the present farm subsidies of £2.7 billion would cover the cost of converting the whole of Britain to "an environmentally sensitive area". This does not, I think, take account of the huge adverse effect on our balance of payments for importing food we could no longer grow because of loss of productivity under organic methods.

Yours etc,

GORDON ANGELL
(Chairman, British Agrochemicals Association, 1983-84),
Rendlesham, School Lane,
Langham, nr Colchester, Essex,
October 5.

From Mr Jules N. Pretty

Sir, You are right to point (leading article, "The greening of Gummer", October 4) to the beginnings of historic changes in Britain's farming and rural landscape. Farmers increasingly realise that a more sustainable agriculture, with integrated technologies for pest, soil and nutrient management, can be as profitable as "modern" practices needing heavy doses of fertilisers and pesticides and large featureless fields.

Environmentalists, too, increasingly appreciate that farmers are the best stewards of the countryside and that their own interests will best be served by working in partnership with the farming lobby. Never have appar-

ently implacably opposed interests come this close.

But these changes do not go far enough. Evidence emerging from many Third World countries indicates that the transition to a more sustainable agriculture can be accompanied by wider economic and social benefits. It has done so in countries as widely dispersed as Honduras, Kenya and India, where communities have been encouraged to participate in local decisions. It has done so where there has been the local and national political will to support these emerging opportunities.

This is the challenge for the Secretaries of State for Environment and Agriculture. Britain lags far behind many Third World countries with respect to changes in farming and the environment and so has much to learn. It does, however, have the opportunity to show much needed leadership here in Europe to support the transition to sustainability.

Mr Gummer should do more than support just organic agriculture for a month, in the latest promotion of food produced in this way. He and Mr Waldegrave should start by declaring a national policy for sustainable agriculture and rural development, and so seek to transform European policy as well as the British landscape.

Yours faithfully,

JULES N. PRETTY (Director,
Sustainable Agriculture Programme),
International Institute for
Environment and Development,
3 Endsleigh Street, WCI.

From Mr Neil Datson

Sir, Farmers are well used to lurid hype about modern agricultural practice. However, any link between conventional farming and cruelty, reflected in your report and leading article, is a slur. Livestock farmers in the UK cannot afford to be cruel to their animals, as they just will not respond economically.

There are different perceptions of good animal welfare, some better researched and more valid than others. For example, the minimum weaning age for piglets stipulated by organic standards — six weeks — would cause enormous welfare problems for sows if imposed on all pig farms in the country.

Yours faithfully,

NEIL DATSON,
Glebe Farm, Spelsbury, Oxfordshire,
October 4.

Survival at sea

From Lieutenant-Commander

Raymond V. Coleman, MRIN, RNR
Sir, One cannot expect ships' passengers to become adept in sea survival skills (Lieutenant-Commander A. Clifford's letter, October 5). That is the duty of the crew.

Survivors of the Estonia tell of the struggling crowds seeking to escape the ship and, when in the water, of masses clambering on to upturned inflated life rafts and of those inside eventually perishing of hypothermia.

As a specialist yacht navigation tutor, may I offer two suggestions. First, that crew, who are traditionally cabinied in segregated crew quarters, should be accommodated evenly throughout the ship. This would enable them, as much as is humanly pos-

sible, to take charge of groups of passengers, guiding them to the several escape routes. Secondly, that crew, especially non-seaman staff, should be trained in life-raft handling.

Yacht masters under training receive a one-day sea survival course, with special emphasis on life-raft righting — a simple quick procedure, even in rough seas — and in hypothermia prevention etc.

Such courses immeasurably aid survival chances; but of course it requires the crew to be in the right place at the right time. Hence the need to re-think crew accommodation as well as training.

Yours truly,

RAYMOND COLEMAN,
Coleman Yacht Navigation,
4 Old Garden Court, Mount Pleasant,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

From the Reverend Roy Greenwood

Sir, During the Peace it has not been unheard of for some members of our congregation who have been at variance with one another to approach each other to make peace again — thereby coming to the Communion in love and forgiveness.

Yours peacefully,

ROY GREENWOOD,
Associate Chaplaincy,
Pollensa, Mallorca, Spain.

From Mrs Caroline Gardner

Sir, A year spent in France has increased my pleasure in the unforced manner in which the French shake hands in greeting one another. Little currents of warmth generate as colleagues, acquaintances, young and old, rich and poor make this brief sign of mutual acceptance.

For me the problem in this country is not the handshake in church but the lack of it outside.

Yours faithfully,

CAROLINE GARDNER,
73 The Hundred,
Romsey, Hampshire,
October 1.

From Miss S. J. Hill

Sir, To avoid handshaking, the answer is to become an organist, then choose your church carefully. I am able to remain closeted in the organ loft, thus avoiding any active part in the exchange of greetings, while enjoying a bird's eye view of the proceedings.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN HILL,
18 Grendon Close,
Tile Hill Village,
Coventry, West Midlands,
October 4.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

When Lawrence first met Frieda

From Mrs Brenda Maddox

Sir, Mr Ian Weekley (letter, October 1) is among the incredulous who question the sources of the assertion in my book, *The Married Man: A Life of D. H. Lawrence*, that Lawrence and Frieda Weekley were in bed within 20 minutes of meeting each other in Nottingham in the spring of 1912. My sources are given both in the text and endnotes.

According to a memorandum by Lewis Richmond in the Nottingham County Record Office, Lawrence's Eastwood friend and mentor, William Hopkin, "had the story from Lawrence himself" that on the day that Professor Ernest Weekley invited him to lunch, Weekley was late and that he and Frieda "entered into sexual relationships within 20 minutes of his arrival".

The same report also appears in the memoirs of Mabel Dodge Luhan, the American art patron and writer, who invited the Lawrences to New Mexico in 1922 and heard Frieda's version of the first meeting. "In 20 minutes she had taken him," says Mrs Luhan. "She told me this herself."

Not the same quality of evidence as provided by a photograph or a Squidgy-tape, perhaps, but surely more reliable than many other supposed "facts" of Lawrence's life, taken from single, unsubstantiated statements in hagiographic memoirs written after Lawrence's death.

For a biographer to disregard two similar reports from disparate, disinterested parties would require the incident described to be either improbable or impossible. The 20-minute encounter was neither. Frieda, committed to Eros, is known to have been proudly adept at swift coupling. Even her own decorous autobiography allows that she had Lawrence to herself in her private room for a half hour before lunch on that fateful day (and that "understanding leaped through our words").

Also, Lawrence's transparently autobiographical novel, *Mr Noon*, graphically describes an experienced German adulterer seducing a gauche young Englishman en route to the dining-room, where a professor awaits them. Fiction can never be read as fact. But it can be taken as evidence of what is in an author's mind.

In *Mr Noon* (which he never pressed to have published in his lifetime) Lawrence shows himself spelling out with great detail and some humour, as if for a sceptical posterity, precisely how such a sexual lightning-strike can be accomplished.

Yours faithfully,

BRENDA MADDOX,
c/o Sinclair Stevenson,
81 Fulham Road, SW3,
October 3.

Post Office closures

From Ms Lisbeth A. Fewings

Sir, Philip Bassett's coverage of the Post Office privatisation debate (article, September 30; report, October 5) does not sufficiently underline the creeping privatisation of PO Counters Ltd. Since 1988 there has been a net loss of 800 main post offices from a national total of 1,500. In London alone more than 120 have closed or been "converted" — the PO's euphemism for privatisation — meaning sold to grocers, bureaux de change, newsagents, etc.

By 1998-99 the Post Office aims to remove all but 400 main post offices from the public sector.

Our own campaign is concerned with preserving Maida Hill post office from threatened closure and the consequent deterioration of the Harrow Road commercial district.

Yours etc,

LISBETH A. FEWINGS (Member,
Save Maida Hill PO Campaign),
19 Horned Road, W9,
October 7.

Harvest time

From Mr David Mowat

Sir, What nice old-fashioned spiders Dr Williams has in South Wales (letters, October 4 and 5). Ours are into new technology. Last week at 2.30am one set off the infrared intruder alarm in the lounge. Yesterday, when the video recorder stopped working, I found a spider comfortable in a double duvet of gossamer on the manual control panel. It changed the day and the month!

Yours faithfully,

DAVID MOWAT,
7 Freshfield Road,
Formby, Liverpool 3,
October 5.

Sorry, wrong aunt

From Monsignor E. G. Dunderdale

Sir, PHS needs to revise his knowledge of P. G. Wodehouse. Aunt Dahlia would be deeply hurt by any description of her as "fearsome" (Diary, September 30). In her defence I quote no less an authority than Bertie Wooster himself: "Dahlia is my good and deserving aunt, not to be confused with Aunt Agatha, the one who kills rats with her teeth and devours her young". She also wore barbed wire next to the skin.

Yours faithfully to PGW,
E. G. DUNDERDALE,
29 Tile Street, SW3.

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OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN NIGEL PUMPHREY

Captain Nigel Pumphrey, DSO and two Bars, DSC, wartime coastal forces commander, died on September 29 aged 84. He was born on July 27, 1910.

DURING the Second World War, the motor torpedo boats and motor gunboats of the Royal Navy's coastal forces fought more than 450 battles in the narrow seas of the Dover Straits, the North Sea and the Channel, sinking some 270 enemy vessels at a cost to themselves of 76. Fought mainly at night, these battles involved groping for enemy convoys in often poor visibility, keeping as quiet as possible until contact was made. Then with all engines at full power, the dark hit up by explosions and multicoloured tracer shells, these lightly-built craft would close at high speed to the short ranges necessary for a successful torpedo attack. From 1941 onwards Nigel Pumphrey was in the thick of such actions, perhaps the most celebrated of which was the forlorn hope attempt to stop the "Channel Dash" of the German battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* from Brest to the safety of the North Sea ports in February 1942.

Edward Nigel Pumphrey joined the Navy at Dartmouth in January 1924 and first went to sea under training in the battleships *Nelson* and *Resolution*. His career followed the normal pattern, with experience in smaller ships and educational courses at Greenwich and Portsmouth, followed by a tour at HMS *Cloness*. Later he went to the Far East and served in the river gunboat *Seaview* and the cruiser *Dorsetshire* until July 1939.

In April 1941, Pumphrey was appointed in command of the 6th Flotilla based at Dover, an early member of a gallant and much decorated band of officers. The famous artist and naturalist, the then Lieutenant-Commander Peter Scott, MBE, DSC and Bar, RNR, later wrote in his history of these operations: "They only achieved success at the cost of many promising lives, but by their daring, their bold initiative and their contempt of danger, they lived up to the highest traditions of the Navy."

At that time Dover boasted only six motor torpedo boats, formed in two flotillas, and two motor gunboats. Living in the Lord Warden Hotel, Pumphrey records that the early type of radar that was installed near Dover conferred a valuable tactical advantage. His flotilla was certainly busy and up to March 1942 Pumphrey himself took part in about twenty battles, some successful, some not.

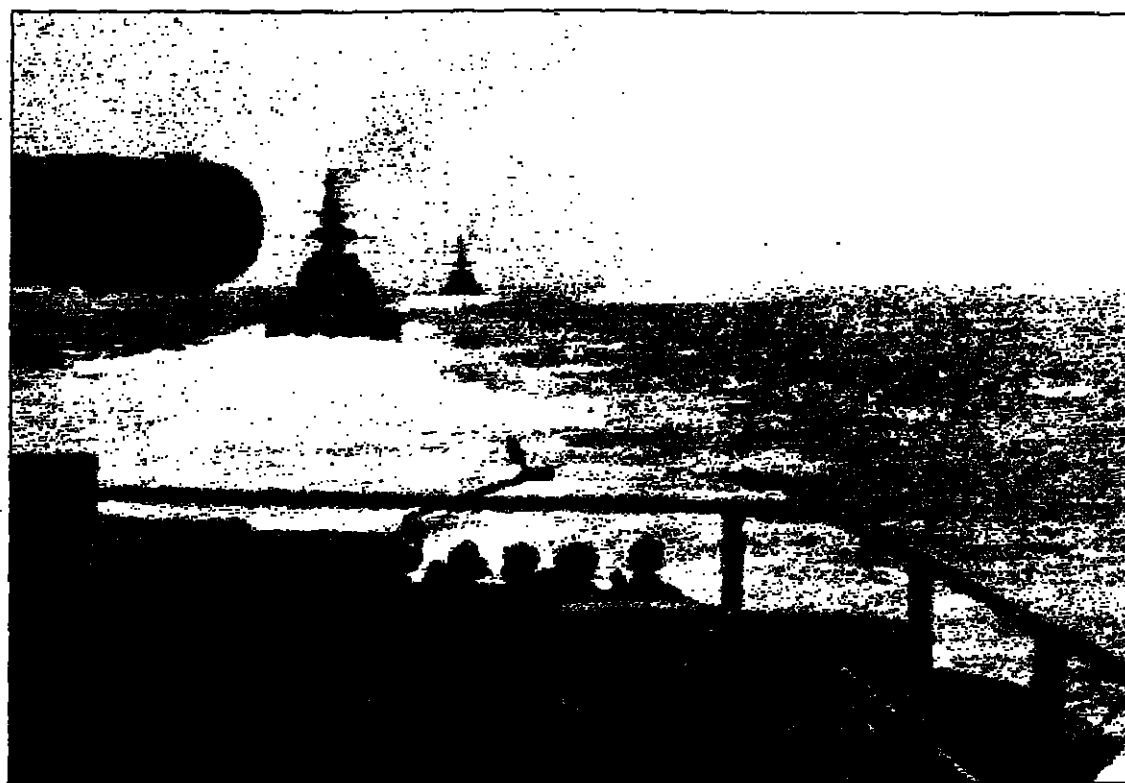


He was mentioned in dispatches for the sinking of an escorted tanker in April 1941; this was followed by the award of the DSC for his part in a spirited action when his three boats attacked a heavily escorted convoy, sinking three ships. Pumphrey's boat was badly damaged (it was described by its coxswain as a "damaged colander") and finally sank after reaching Ramsgate, he and two of his sailors suffering wounds. He was again mentioned in dispatches in November for the sinking of another enemy ship in the Dover Straits.

On the morning of February 12, 1942, Pumphrey was in his office "doing a little placid paperwork" and expecting a telephone call from the stores department. But when the telephone did ring it was to convey no such humdrum information, but to tell him, instead, to sail immediately to intercept the battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* which, under the command of Vice-Admiral Cilius, had broken out of their Atlantic coast lair at Brest and were steaming up-Channel. They were accompanied by the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen* and a destroyer escort, not to mention sundry other small craft. Meanwhile, overhead an umbrella of Messerschmitt Me109s, Me110s and Focke-Wulf FW190s, maintained by patrols flown in rotation from French and Dutch airfields, provided a formidable air defence.

The breakout had been widely expected, but it was not anticipated that Cilius would attempt the passage of the Straits of Dover in daylight. Furthermore, failures in aerial reconnaissance meant that the Germans had been steaming for more than 12 hours and were well into the Channel before they were spotted.

Despite being at four hours' notice, Pumphrey's five boats were at sea within twenty minutes. His laconic



Nigel Pumphrey, left, and the Channel Dash of February 12, 1942: the German battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* as seen from one of the forward gundecks of the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*

report says that, as his MTBs were being engaged by both aircraft and E-Boats (the German torpedo/gunboat which was larger, faster and much more heavily armed than the MTB), he was unable to get closer than about 4,000 yards to the heavily armed warships which in that weather had a speed advantage. It was at first thought that a torpedo hit had been achieved on the leading ship, *Prinz Eugen* (afterwards shown to be the *Scharnhorst*), but the three German heavy ships escaped unscathed as they did from other British efforts to stop them, which included attacks by destroyers and the brave but futile attack by the Swordfish of 825 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm, which resulted in the loss of all its aircraft.

It was an audacious demonstration by the Germans which caused *The Times*, throwing aside its customary loyal wartime restraint, to thunder in a leading article of February 14, 1942: "Vice-Admiral Cilius has succeeded where the Duke of Medina Sidonia failed... Nothing more mortifying to the pride of seapower has happened in home waters since the 17th century."

Whatever the truth of this reflection and it took no account of the fact, unknown at the time, that both *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* had suffered severe damage from British mines) it was certainly not the fault of

Pumphrey and his MTB crews, who had performed above themselves in adverse conditions. For this and his other actions, Pumphrey was awarded his first DSO.

In March 1942 he was in hospital with his third wound, later remarking with characteristic modesty and wit: "Can it be coincidence that every wound I suffered in the war was behind?" Having made an acknowledged contribution to the tactical doctrine of coastal forces, he was appointed in April to command the Hunt class destroyer *Brocksby*.

The *Brocksby* took part in the disastrous raid on Dieppe in August 1942, and sustained considerable damage from shore batteries, which so badly damaged her sister ship *Berkeley* that she had to be torpedoed to prevent her from falling into enemy hands. Emerging from smoke and fog, close to the shore, *Brocksby* almost suffered a like fate, but her own shooting got her out of a very tight corner. This action earned Pumphrey a Bar to his DSO.

In October 1942 Pumphrey took command of another Hunt class destroyer, the *Goathland* and, in company with the destroyer *Albrighton*, won a second Bar to his DSO for sinking an important German supply ship off the coast of Brittany.

After a year in the *Goathland*, he

was promoted to Commander and joined Force L Normandy. After a short staff course, he joined Assault Group Force W in the Indian Ocean in November 1944 as deputy to the senior officer. His work, especially in establishing navigational aids in the approaches to Rangoon before an assault, earned him his third and fourth mentions in dispatches.

After the war he was assistant naval attaché in Paris until the end of 1947, when he was appointed second-in-command of the cruiser *Liverpool* in the Mediterranean. Two years as naval liaison officer at Trieste were followed by a tour in the Admiralty, and, as a Captain, command of *Cardigan Bay* and the 7th Frigate Squadron. This last seagoing appointment took him back to the Far East and must have been a particular pleasure, enhancing as it did his reputation as an admirable leader.

Having contemplated his probable future as an Admiralty bureaucrat, he applied to retire in 1956 and took up farming in Hampshire. With his wife Frances Salkeld, whom he married in 1940, he made, with typical method and flair, a success of both dairy and poultry farms and a fine National Gardens Scheme cottage garden.

His wife died in November last year. He is survived by their son and daughter.

LINA BASQUETTE

Lina Basquette, a Hollywood star of the silent film era, died in Wheeling, West Virginia, on September 30 aged 87. She was born in San Mateo, California, on April 19, 1907.

SULTRY and seductive, Lina Basquette epitomised the silent screen vamp, an image greatly intensified by her personal life which was sardined with lovers, husbands and romantic intrigue. For the tabloid press of the 1920s and 1930s, Basquette was staple fare, with nine marriages to seven different husbands, a series of quick-fire divorces, and very public affairs with the rich and famous. Her lovers included Jack Dempsey, Nelson Eddy and the Metropolitan Opera baritone Lawrence Tibbett.

Born Lina Baskette, the step-daughter of a dance instructor named Ernest Belcher and half-sister of the actress-dancer Marge Champion, Basquette made her stage debut at the age of eight when she appeared as a child ballerina at the 1915 San Francisco World's Fair. A year later she was signed by Universal Studios to star in a series of short films, the "Lena Baskette Features", and to play child roles in silent features.

She left the film world for a while to concentrate on her ballet talents, and at 16 became the leading female dancer of the *Ziegfeld Follies* on Broadway in the 1923 edition of the show.

Basquette's first marriage

was in 1925, to the much older Sam Warner, one of the founders of Warner Brothers and the elder statesman of the company. The marriage lasted only two years, producing one daughter, before Warner died in 1927, leaving Basquette a huge fortune. But Warners contested the will, and the ensuing legal battle over the estate and custody of her daughter led her to a much-publicised series of suicide attempts.

She had resumed her acting career that same year, changing her name and taking a lead role in *Serenade*, but her screen work suffered from the backlash of the Warner marriage. Though she starred in Cecil B. De Mille's last silent movie, *The Godless Girl* (1929), most of her subsequent films — which included *The Dude Wrangler* (1930), *Hard Hombres* (1931) and *The Final Hour* (1936) — were minor, and her roles became smaller until, by the late 1930s, she was reduced to bit parts. Her last film, *A Night for Crime*, was made in 1943.

Basquette's tumultuous romantic life, however, kept her in the headlines until, in 1943, an American GI was accused of raping her and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. Shortly thereafter she retired from Hollywood. Always an avid dog lover, she bought kennels in Pennsylvania, and became one of the best-known breeders and handlers of champion Great Danes in America. She also wrote several books on dog breeding.

Lina Basquette is survived by one son and one daughter.



O. S. NOCK

O. S. Nock, railway historian and engineer, died in Bath on September 21 aged 89. He was born in Sutton Coldfield on January 21, 1905.

OSWALD NOCK was a legendary name among railway enthusiasts. He was arguably the leading railway historian of his day, from the great age of steam onwards, and certainly one of the most prolific, producing nearly a thousand articles for specialist magazines such as the *Railway Magazine* and *The Engineer*. He also published more than 140 books on the subject, dealing with every aspect of railway history — from the comparative performance of locomotive classes to detailed studies on engineering, from wistful eulogies to closed branch lines to histories of the great railway companies in

Britain and abroad. His books sold around 10,000 copies in hardback, and while some of them may have been addressed to the lay reader the professionals found his technical grasp — even in the glossier publications — impossible to fault. Most of them, too, were written before Nock's retirement from what he considered to be his real job as a railway engineer.

His titles told the whole story of one man's obsession: *The Great Western Railway, an appreciation; Father of Railways: the Story of George Stephenson; Out of the Line: The Last Years of British Steam; Historic Railway Disasters; Lines Across the Border; Underground Railways of the World*. Nock had ridden on almost every railway across the globe, including the Japanese (which he found "closed in") and the new French TGV ("just like an

airliner"). His own favourite was the British High Speed Train.

While most books on railway subject tend essentially to consist of sets of variations on very few themes, Nock's books were appreciated by his readers for other qualities. His *British Trains, Past and Present* (1952), for example, looked at British engines and rolling-stock over the past 125 years — a well-worn subject among railway writers. But Nock's approach to it revealed, in addition, an artist's eye for colour, a traveller's delight in the changing countryside, and a delightful prose style.

The son of a bank manager, Oswald Stevens Nock — always known as "Ossie" — was educated at Giggleswick School. He recalled in his autobiography, *Line Clear Ahead*, that his only free time there — Sunday mornings — was notable because no trains ran on the line between Settle and Carlisle. He found them, as a result, interminably dull.

Afterwards he attended the City and Guilds Engineering College, 1921-25, and studied engineering at London University. He spent his entire working life thereafter in the service of the Westinghouse Brake & Signal Company, latterly as the chief mechanical engineer. He was fortunate to find there a kindred spirit in his immediate boss, a man almost as enthusiastic about trains as Nock; he would interrupt business meetings

and jump on to the window sill in order to photograph some rare passing locomotive.

Nock's writing began in the 1930s as a means of supplementing his income, and to begin with his wife typed the books, which came out steadily at the rate of two a year. As his reputation grew, he came to count among his friends such legendary locomotive engineers as Sir Nigel Gresley and Roland Bond. He lived in Bath, surrounded by relics from the Turkish State Railway, from the Kaiser's lines, and by model railways, including a replica of the running shed of Inverness station.

Besides railways, Nock loved the wild crags and rivers of Cumbria and the majesty of the Cornish coastline. His interests went beyond Claughtons, Compounds and Castles to include archaeology, astronomy, music and painting. His *Another Facet of an Autobiography*, published last year, included some of his excellent illustrations of trains, landscapes and seascapes.

Nock was rewarded with many honours, including the presidency of the Institute of Signal Engineers, and fellowship of the Institutes of Civil Engineers, Mechanical Engineers and Permanent Way. He met his wife Olivia in the buffet at King's Cross station, and they took their honeymoon on board *The Flying Scotsman*. She died seven years ago and he is survived by their son and daughter.

NIKOLAI TARASSOV

Nikolai Tarassov, a judge of the International Court of Justice, died in The Hague on September 28 aged 70. He was born on October 2, 1923.

A RUSSIAN career diplomat, Nikolai Tarassov had served on the International Court of Justice in The Hague since 1965. Before that he had held senior posts at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the United Nations.

Nikolai Konstantinovich Tarassov was educated at Moscow State University where he read law and took a postgraduate degree. Afterwards he had a career in diplomatic service which was fittingly prefaced with seven years' service to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. He was consultant to the Presidium's legal department, 1949-53, and from 1953 to 1956 was head of the office of the Secretary of the Presidium.

By now a trusted functionary, he was sent abroad to be Counsellor in the Soviet Embassy in Iran, where he remained from 1956 to 1961. Thereafter he had another seven years back in Moscow

in senior appointments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before going abroad again as deputy permanent representative of the Soviet Union to the UN. During this period (1969-72) he was also the Soviet representative on the UN Commission on Human Rights.

From 1972 to 1976 he was Soviet Ambassador to Mexico and from 1976 until his election to the International Court was principal counsellor for foreign planning in the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1976 to 1981 he led the Soviet delegation to the Vienna talks on mutual arms-reductions.

As a member of the International Court of Justice, he came to prominence during debates on the legality of aspects of the situation in the former Yugoslavia in April last year, when he exercised the Russian option of dissent from a court ruling that Serbia must ensure that her army units did not commit genocide. His was the lone voice against a court ruling which was passed by 13 votes to one.

Tarassov died in office. He married, in 1955, Marianna Zinovieva. They had two daughters.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8 1994

Wharton jailed for £43m loan fraud

By Sara McConnell and Helen Johnstone

ROY Wharton, chairman of Castlegate Securities and Castlegate Group Holdings, was yesterday jailed for five years for a £43-million mortgage fraud in which hundreds of investors were conned out of their life savings.

Wharton, who was found guilty at Oxford Crown Court last month on two charges of fraudulent trading, was told by Judge May that he had used people's money with "flagrant dishonesty" and had inflicted "misery and despair" on investors.

Many were elderly and retired, and had been tempted by Wharton's promise that they would get a return of 20 per cent a year if they invested a minimum of £250,000 in Castlegate's Capital Fund Owners' Plan, operated by Castlegate Securities between 1988 and 1990.

Castlegate's brochure promised "a unique opportunity for those who have substantial funds available and are looking for a high income without jeopardising their capital security". The Times was the first to highlight the Castlegate scam in July 1990, alerted by the company's attempts to place an advertisement in the paper. This was refused.

Thames Valley Police later described the paper's coverage of the case as a "very significant" contribution to the joint investigation by police and the Serious Fraud Office.

Investors' money was used to set up limited companies owned by the investors. These then made second and third mortgage advances to homeowners and smaller businesses. Castlegate acted on behalf of the companies, producing loan applications, conducting status enquiries, valuing properties and handling general administration work.

Castlegate guaranteed to make good any shortfall suffered by the companies.

However, the investors' companies lost millions of pounds after loans were made to homeowners seeking second mortgages on 550 "near-worthless" properties, whose values had been artificially inflated by Wharton. As the property slump sent house prices tumbling, Wharton increasingly lent to a small group of friends and business associates, who did not pay the interest due on their loans. The group included property developers and speculators. When these borrowers did not pay up, Wharton caused further advances to be made through the lending companies. This meant that investors were unwittingly advancing money to pay interest owed to them in the first place.

Police and the SFO searched Castlegate's premises in November 1990 after two Castlegate investment companies were placed in liquidation. Investigators subsequently discovered that more than half the loans had been made to 19 borrowers from 700 on the company's books. It also emerged that Wharton had withdrawn £400,000 from Castlegate to build a swimming pool at his home at Finchampstead, Berkshire.

Judge May told Wharton: "I take into account your previous good character, the strain of the last four years and also that this business was not started as a fraud. But it developed into a fraud and there were severe losses of many millions of pounds. People let you have their money to manage because they trusted you. You responded with flagrant dishonesty. Private investors lost their savings. You must have caused them misery and despair."

Adrian Redgrave, defending, said that Wharton had run the companies for 20 years before any dishonesty, and blamed the property crash. He said: "[Wharton] has lost everything he has ever worked for."



Still protecting investors: the author of Accounting for Growth has overcome his little difficulty at UBS and joined the merchant bank as a fund adviser

Terry Smith takes up job at Singer & Friedlander

By Robert Miller

TERRY Smith is back. The controversial analyst who was sacked by UBS, the broker, two years ago is to act as chief adviser to a new smaller companies fund launched today by Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank.

Mr Smith should have been in the High Court this week for the long-awaited scrap between himself and UBS over an unfair dismissal claim, but UBS settled out of court with a ransomed seven-figure cheque.

Mr Smith's alleged crime was to write a book, *Accounting for Growth*, an innocuous enough title but the contents were dynamite and it topped the UK best-seller list. The book outlined the 12 best ways to "fiddle" or be creative with company accounts.

For example, he suggested that many of Britain's top companies were making their profits look bigger by putting one-off items, such as property disposals, in with other general income business to give analysts the impression that these figures could be repeated every year.

Unfortunately the companies associated with the book also happened to be UBS clients. When news of the contents leaked, before publication, there was a concerted "stop the book" campaign.

It is generally reckoned that the final straw for UBS was a complaint from Sir Colin Marshall, a non-executive director of Grand Metropolitan and then chairman-designate of British Airways. Mr Smith was summoned and was escorted from the UBS building, never to return.

Yesterday, he said: "I was flabbergasted... The publisher thought it was a good book that might sell a few thousand copies. I still don't think I did anything wrong. My job is to protect investors and that's what I was doing."

Smaller companies, page 33

Exports lead recovery

By Janet Bush and Ross Tieman

EXPORTS are taking over from consumer demand as the engine of Britain's recovery. Sir Bryan Nicholson, the president of the Confederation of British Industry, said.

With retail sales growth slowing, and exports outpacing imports, "the economy looks as if it is set fair for a period of steady, sustained growth, coupled with relatively subdued inflation," he told businessmen in Droivich, Worcestershire.

His words coincided with publication of government figures that showed Britain's trade deficit narrowed slightly in July as export growth outstripped rising imports. The visible trade deficit was £704 million in July compared with £729 million in June.

Sir Bryan said the recovery was now changing in character. Retail sales, which rose 2.6 per cent year-on-year during the second quarter, were slowing. But in manufacturing, investment in plant and machinery was rising. Exports of goods and services rose more than 9 per cent in the 12 months to June.

The CSO figures showed that the value of exports rose 1 per cent between June and July, while the value of imports rose 0.5 per cent. Excluding oil and erratic items, the deficit fell to £1.27 billion in July, from £1.34 billion in June.

The CSO said that the deficit is on a narrowing trend. City economists predicted a far lower current account deficit this year than the Treasury's summer forecast of £9.5 billion. Jonathan Loyne, economist at Midland Global Markets, is forecasting a current account deficit this year of £4 billion.

Hoare Govett attributed the improvement in Britain's trade performance to a near doubling in the surplus on oil and an improved underlying picture, particularly in trade with countries outside the EU.

Simon Briscoe, at SG Warburg, said that export growth already appears to be slowing, suggesting a fall in the pace of overall economic expansion.

Man shares flop on opening day

MORE than 12,500 private shareholders in E D & F Man, the international trader and food processor, are facing an instant loss on their investment after its shares plunged to an immediate discount as dealmakers started on the stock market (Martin Waller writes).

The shares, offered to the public at 180p, fell to 169p before stabilising at 172p for most of the day. The poor start to trading is another blow to the new issues market, already hit by unsteady performance from equities and bonds in recent months.

Man was the second-biggest float in London so far this year, with a total price-tag of £462 million. *Temps*, page 28

Pension problem

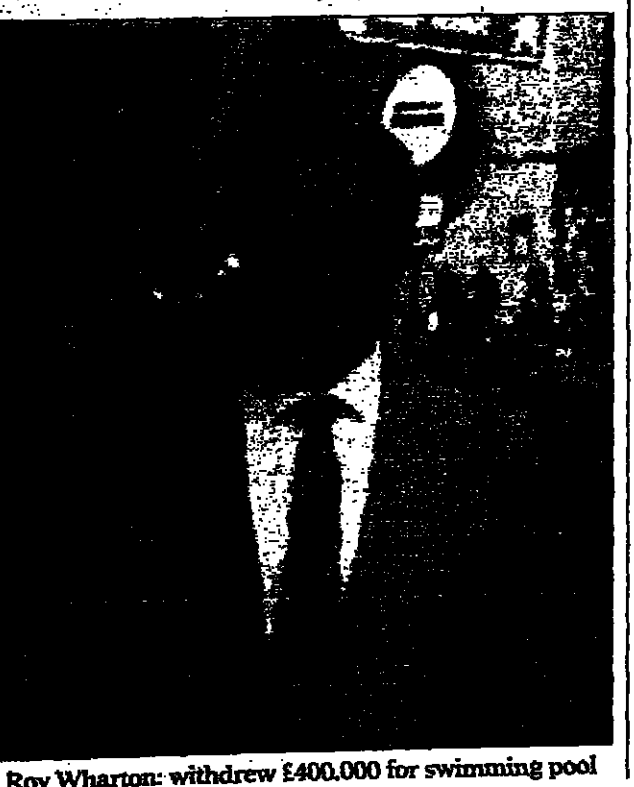
Steps to protect members of company pension schemes from another scandal could have a catastrophic effect on stock markets and burden employers with enormous costs. Employers consider the financial burden to be unacceptably onerous, a survey reveals. *Page 26*

High flyers

A school for jugglers and trapeze artists is packing in dealers and bankers after a day in the City. The school is a registered charity and is supported by Warburg, Slaughter and May, and Dewe Rogerson. *Page 27*

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	2998.7	(+14.3)
Yield	4.22%	
FT-SE All share	1494.19	(+5.19)
Nickel	10744.75	(+89.52)
New York		
Dow Jones	3789.02	(+13.46)
S&P Composite	453.97	(+1.61)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	4 1/4%	(4%)
Long Bond	94 3/4%	(94 1/4%)
Yield	7.95%	(7.95%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6%	(6%)
Life long gilt	100%	(89%)
future (Dec)		
STERLING		
New York	1.5860*	(1.5900)
London		
DM	1.5665	(1.5675)
DM	2.4508	(2.4500)
FF	3.2740	(3.2800)
Sfr	2.0318	(2.0317)
Yen	159.28	(158.17)
C index	80.3	(80.2)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.5454*	(1.5440)
FF	5.2733*	(5.2780)
Sfr	1.2817*	(1.2800)
Yen	100.29*	(99.94)
C index	82.2	(82.2)
Tokyo close Yen 100.02		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$17.15	\$16.95
GOLD		
London close	\$382.85	\$391.75
* denotes midday trading price		



Roy Wharton: withdrew £400,000 for swimming pool

Argyll checks out of discount stores

By Susan Gilchrist

ARGYLL, Britain's third-biggest supermarket operator, yesterday announced its intention to check out of the discount end of the food retailing market with the disposal of its Lo-Cost chain.

The group, which also owns Safeway and Presto, is selling 101 Lo-Cost stores and the Lo-Cost trading name to Co-operative Retail Services (CRS) for up to £73 million.

The move follows the disposal of 151 small Lo-Cost stores to Spar for about £20 million in August. The 50 remaining outlets will also be sold in due course. Argyll's withdrawal from the discount sector follows a fundamental review of the Lo-Cost business, which has been a major casualty of increased competition.

CRS is to pay a minimum consideration of £59 million plus an additional amount of up to £14 million based on the average sales of the stores in the eight weeks up to the November 12 completion date. In addition to the 101 stores, CRS is buying a freehold distribution depot at Queensferry, Clwyd, and has agreed to lease Lo-Cost's two other distribution depots at Salford, Manchester, and Shrewsbury.

An Argyll spokesman said there would be about 60 redundancies among the chain's 3,800 employees. About £3 million will be charged to the group's profit and loss account in the current year, to cover the cost of redundancies and closures.

Argyll expects to raise between £86 million and £100 million from the disposal of the whole chain. The remaining stores are unlikely to be sold in one block, and some may have to be closed if buyers cannot be found.

The spokesman said: "We are pleased to have got out as cleanly as we have, and we can now concentrate on Safeway and Presto." Analysts said the price was satisfactory enough given the weak state of the business. Lo-Cost made operating profits of £6.3 million on sales of £471 million in the year to April 2.

Temps, page 28

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Bank of Ireland Mortgages

Hollinger set to buy Telegraph shares

By Sarah Bagwell

INFLUENTIAL institutional shareholders yesterday hit out at Hollinger's public announcement that, from Monday, it intended to buy shares in The Telegraph plc, publisher of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph*.

Hollinger, a Canadian company controlled by Conrad Black, who also controls the newspapers, said that it intended to buy about 5 per cent of The Telegraph's equity. This would lift its holding to 62 per cent.

This is the second time in recent months that The Telegraph has been

at the centre of City institutions' wrath. In June, it shocked investors with the timing of a cut in the cover price of *The Daily Telegraph*.

Yesterday, institutional investors said that they could see no reason for the formal statement beyond wanting to push the share price up. The shares rose by 20p, to 330p.

David Manning, a director of UK equities with Legal & General, said: "The recent behaviour of Hollinger as a major shareholder in The Telegraph is all at odds with that expected in the UK market by institutions. This announcement tends to dissuade investors from taking, or keeping, a stake in The Telegraph."

Another institutional shareholder said: "I suppose Conrad Black is doing it just to ensure there is no impropriety in the share dealings. But I don't think Hollinger will buy many shares because it was obvious the announcement would push the share price up."

In June, Conrad Black was subjected to accusations of impropriety when the cover price of *The Daily Telegraph* was cut a month after Hollinger sold a large chunk of Telegraph shares to a range of City firms at about 596p a share. On the day the cut was

announced, the shares fell by 191p, to 349p. The Stock Exchange cleared him of any wrongdoing.

According to the statement, Hollinger "will purchase ordinary shares in The Telegraph, if available, at or around current market prices, and is prepared, initially, to buy up to 6.8 million ordinary shares of The Telegraph's issued ordinary share capital."

One shareholder said: "It is unbelievable. Hollinger is a major shareholder and they are trading in and out of The Telegraph shares. It leaves you thinking that they sold the shares in June because they were overpriced."



Under wraps: Donald Macdonald, finance director, left, and Norman White, managing director of Calluna, with the Callunacard, yesterday

Close shave for listing of Calluna on USM

By MARTIN WALLER

A SCOTTISH maker of miniature disk drives for portable computers is heading for the stock market at the end of this month with a price tag of more than £30 million. But the float would be impossible three months later, as Calluna is required by stock market rules to go the Unlisted Securities Market route.

The USM is closing for new applicants at the end of this year, and companies like Calluna, which has only been in existence since 1991, has yet to make an operating profit and lacks the necessary trading record, are not permitted to go for a full listing.

Norman White, managing director of Calluna, said the placing, by Albert E Sharp, the broker, would provide his business with the resources to fully exploit opportunities in the expanding 1.8-inch disk drive market for portable laptop computers.

The company is expected to raise £10 million to £12 million of fresh funds to support development of its product, the Callunacard. Fully compatible with the latest computer industry standards, the device is about the size of a credit card, though heavier, and packs as much information as 80 standard floppy disks.

Calluna, of Glenrothes, Fife, is thought to be the only company from Europe to make 1.8 inch disk drives. The full prospectus should give an indication of when the group expects profits.

Pension proposals 'could devastate stock markets'

By JON ASHWORTH

STEPS to protect members of UK company pension schemes from another Maxwell-style scandal could have a catastrophic effect on stock markets and burden employers with enormous costs, a survey has found.

Employers accept the need to strengthen the security of members' pension rights but consider the financial burden to be unacceptably onerous, according to a survey of 60 companies by KPMG, the accountant.

Charles Evers, head of KPMG Actuarial Services, said the Government needed to re-examine proposals for a minimum solvency standard, put forward in the recent White Paper on pension reforms. He said: "A radical change to investment policy

from equities to fixed interest would be the only protection available. This would be very expensive for companies in the long run — in some cases it could almost double the cost of pension provision."

Mr Evers said companies would have only three months to put in extra cash if the solvency margin fell below 90 per cent. He added: "Whilst we agree solvency levels need continuous monitoring, and that pension fund security needs improving, we believe a longer term approach is needed. Companies should be allowed much more time to correct for deficiencies, which might after all be caused by temporary market conditions."

Under the proposals, companies would be obliged to have the solvency of their

pension funds checked every year. Legislation cementing the proposals is expected in the next parliamentary session. Mr Evers said it was critically important to seek an amendment to the solvency proposals while there was still time. He said: "It's all very scary stuff. If people did move out of shares, it would have a major effect on markets. Industry could be starved of equity capital."

Sharp stock market movements could force even well-funded final salary pension schemes to top up their holdings, even though such fluctuations are often temporary. If a £1 billion scheme was 80 per cent solvent following such a market movement, the employer would have three months in which to find £125

million to top it up. If all final salary schemes were to reduce equity exposure to 50 per cent, as much as £150 billion would be switched from equities and properties to fixed interest investments. This would cause severe disruption to capital markets.

In a paper submitted to the Government, KPMG says more emphasis should be placed on a long-term funding standard than on the proposed short term wind up standard. Minimum standards for long-term funding methods and assumptions, combined with controls to ensure that employers pay proper contributions in a timely fashion, would underpin benefit and employee security and cause less damage to the finances of the sponsoring companies.

Joint chief to leave T&S

By SARAH BAGNALL

STEPHE Boddice is standing down as joint managing director of T&S Stores, the tobacco, confectionery and newsagents group that owns the Supercigs and Dillons chains.

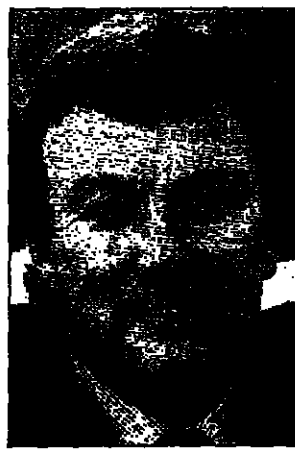
Mr Boddice, 42, is to retire at the end of the year after 17 years as a director of T&S. The company refused to say whether any compensation was owed.

Jim McCarthy, the other joint managing director, is

being promoted to the new post of chief executive. David Crellin, who joined the company in 1990, is becoming finance director. Mr McCarthy joined the group in 1989 when T&S Stores acquired Dillons. He began as group retail director before being made joint managing director in October 1993. Mr Boddice was made joint managing director at the same time.

Kevin Threlfall, chairman, said: "Stephe and I have worked closely together for almost 20 years, within which timescale, the company has grown from three kiosks to over 700 stores."

Last year, the group made pre-tax profits of £12.6 million, up from £12.5 million previously. In March, it announced the acquisition of Macs Stores, the convenience store chain, as part of its plans to add 50 stores in the current year.



Threlfall: close colleague

BAe ready to name bid terms for VSEL

By ROSE THOMAS
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Aerospace is clearing the decks to announce an agreed takeover bid for shipbuilder VSEL next week after the Ministry of Defence signalled it had no objection to the deal.

Discussions over a recommended offer at up to £13 a share, valuing VSEL at £464 million, are set to continue between negotiators representing the two companies over the weekend.

Steady progress has been made during talks since VSEL announced the bid approach a week ago. The broad details of an offer are believed to have been agreed, and advisors are said to be concentrating on "loose ends".

Roger Freeman, the defence procurement minister, apparently indicated that his ministry was unlikely to oppose a takeover during a visit to VSEL's yard at Barrow-in-Furness this week. Both sides worry that they may have trouble selling the deal to their shareholders and the City.

VSEL has long believed it could benefit from having a larger partner. But BAe has been focused on reducing, rather than extending, the range of its businesses, and will have to work hard to convince that VSEL will not become an albatross as its Trident workload runs down.

Watchdog fines three traders

By JON ASHWORTH

THREE traders have been fined and removed from City registers by the Securities and Futures Authority. David Todd, a former trader with City Index, David Smith, formerly of Refco Overseas, and John Veglio, formerly of Lehman Brothers Securities, were taken off the SFA register by their employers. They have not been re-registered.

Mr Todd has been fined £10,000, severely reprimanded and required to pay £2,500 SFA costs. He had arranged to use Mr Smith's account at City Index to circumvent house rules prohibiting dealers from trading on their own account. Mr Todd was found to have dealt outside the bid/offer spread to enhance profits.

Mr Smith, fined £5,000, reprimanded and required to pay £2,500 costs, failed to tell Refco that he had an account at City Index. Mr Todd and Mr Smith have since repaid their profits to City Index.

Mr Veglio, who traded in Japanese equity warrants, was sacked by Lehman when it discovered that a number of positions had been valued incorrectly, concealing substantial losses. He was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £5,950 costs.

Growth in US jobs fuels rate rise fears

FURTHER robust growth in the number of jobs being created in America yesterday strengthened the likelihood of the American Federal Reserve raising interest rates. Both the July and August payroll figures were revised upwards and brought the average monthly increase in payrolls during the third quarter to 258,000. During September, non-farm payrolls rose by 239,000. The increase in payrolls pushed the rate of unemployment down to 5.9 per cent in September, from 6.1 per cent in August. It was the lowest rate recorded since October 1990.

American analysts believe that a level of around 6 per cent means that the competition for manpower will push wages up in an inflationary manner. The bulk of the jobs created came from the lower-paying service sector, which analysts said helped to contain wage inflation. Few manufacturing jobs were created in September. Robert Reich, the American Labour Secretary, said the latest government employment report points to continued economic expansion in America. He said: "The message is clearly steady as the goes. The jobs expansion continues."

MacGregor rejoins bank

JOHN MacGregor, the former Transport Secretary, is rejoining Hill Samuel, the merchant bank, which is advising the Department of Transport on the Channel Tunnel rail link. Mr MacGregor, 57, who asked to leave the Government in the July reshuffle, worked for the bank for 11 years before a 15-year ministerial career. Now he has been made non-executive deputy chairman of Hill Samuel, part of TSB Group. Hill Samuel was selected last year to advise on the rail link after a competition among banks. Mr MacGregor, who is MP for Norfolk South, asked to take no part in the selection process because of his former links with the bank.

Dartmoor hunts Sphere

DARTMOOR Investment Trust has launched a £524 million hostile paper bid for rival Sphere Investment Trust. Sphere's directors told shareholders to take no action on the bid. The board, said that in consultation with SG Warburg Securities, its advisers, it was studying the terms of the offer and would make a further announcement in due course. Dartmoor holds 7.01 per cent of Sphere's issued income and residual capital shares, and said yesterday that it had also received letters of intention to accept the share offer in respect of a total of 45.45 per cent of shares, including a letter from Abtrust, which holds 22.94 per cent of Sphere shares.

US pollution move fails

LLOYD'S of London yesterday expressed disappointment that efforts to reform US legislation on the clean-up of polluted sites had been put on hold for a year after moves to reform the so-called Superfund laws ran out of time before the Congressional elections. Earlier this year Superfund reform was heralded as the jewel in the crown of President Bill Clinton's environmental programme. The existing Superfund law requires the polluter to pay the costs of clean-up. The reform Bill will now have to be renegotiated next year, when there is likely to be an even stronger anti-vote from the Republicans.

Iraqi advance lifts oil

OIL prices were given a surprise boost from reports that Iraqi troops were advancing towards the Kuwait frontier, triggering market concern about renewed hostilities in the oil-rich region. On the London International Petroleum Exchange, the benchmark Brent blend crude contract for November delivery jumped to \$17.25 per barrel. The 28 cent rise injected fresh vigour into the three-week rally in oil prices, which had repeatedly petered out at just above \$17. Iraq is reported to be suffering serious food shortages without oil export earnings to pay for imports and has been lobbying hard for UN sanctions to be lifted.

Next buys shops

NEXT, the high street fashion retailer, has acquired four new shop units as part of its plans to increase its average store size in order to carry a broader range. Two of the sites, in Peterborough and Brent Cross, are adjacent to existing stores and will enable these outlets to be extended. The new store in Derby is a relocation for its smaller existing site and a further site in Carmarthen has been acquired. All the units were acquired for the chain by Healey & Baker. David Jones, Next's chief executive, said last month that the group is looking to expand about 100 of its 302 stores either by relocation or by acquiring adjacent shop sites.

US closure costs jobs at Dawson

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

DAWSON International, the leading textile group best known for its Ballantyne and Pringle brands, is closing one of its factories in America, with the loss of 250 jobs.

The group is shutting its shower curtain and bathroom accessories plant in Vienna, Ohio, as part of its plans to return Dawson Home Fashions, its American subsidiary, to profitability. The plant will be phased out over the next six months and merged with the group's remaining site in Sardinia, Mississippi. 250 of the 700 employees will go, although some new jobs may be created.

Nick Kuensberg, Dawson's managing director, refused to disclose the exact cost of the reorganisation but said it was amply covered by the £12 million provision made in its 1994 accounts.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.28	2.09
Austria Sch	18.25	18.75
Belgium Fr	53.63	49.52
Canada C\$	2.248	2.098
Cyprus Cyp£	0.781	0.731
Denmark Kr	16.21	8.41
Finland Mk	8.18	7.49
France Fr	8.88	8.18
Germany DM	2.61	2.40
Greece Dr	350.00	385.00
Hong Kong \$	12.92	11.52
Ireland P£	1.06	0.98
Italy Lit	2575.00	2420.00
Japan Yen	174.00	157.00
Netherlands Gld	2.892	2.696
Norway Kr	11.26	10.48
Portugal Esc	201.00	242.50
S Africa Rd	REF	5.54
Spain Ptas	210.20	190.50
Sweden Kr	12.30	11.50
Switzerland Fr	2.18	2.00
Turkey Lira	REF	52495.00
USA £	1.689	1.598

Rates for email denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

Salomon is braced for \$100m loss

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SALOMON, the giant US investment bank, yesterday gave some idea of the likely bloodbath on Wall Street this month with a warning that it has made a net \$100 million loss in the third quarter.

Salomon and other US brokerages report their third-quarter figures later this month. They will reveal the devastation wreaked on their business by chaos in world financial markets. Salomon is due to report its figures on, or about, October 20.

Salomon said that, as a result of its losses, it was "closely reviewing the pace of new initiatives". Unlike its major competitors, Salomon has not had a dramatic increase in headcount and is, therefore, thought unlikely to be planning swingeing job cuts.

Analysts interpreted this as a decision to cut back on global expansion.

Many Wall Street firms are expected to report lower profits after volatility in equity and bond markets and a series of interest rate increases in the US that have hit trading and underwriting volumes. Kidder Peabody is considering selling its retail broking business after its problems. This week, Kidder said that it was moving between \$20 billion and \$30 billion of securities to another part of its parent, General Electric, in a restructuring.

After poor trading results and a public admission of disappointing profits performance, Goldman Sachs is reported to be about to cut up to 900 staff, close to 10 per cent of its workforce. The bank refuses to comment on the reports.

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CANADIAN OVERSEAS PACKAGING INDUSTRIES LIMITED

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

EARNINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

Audited results for the year to 30th June 1994

(all funds expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars except for the common share data)

	1993/94 (C\$000)	1992/93 (C\$000)
Sales	C\$118,367	C\$107,455
Earnings from Operations	6,953	9,761
Less: Minority Interest	448	557
	6,505	9,204
Investment Income	7,789	9,786
Gain on Sale of Marketable Securities	14,804	8,737
Foreign Currency Gains (Losses)	3,317	(396)
Earnings before taxation	32,395	27,331
Taxation	3,983	4,160
Net Earnings	C\$28,402	C\$23,171
Earnings per Common Share	C\$1.62	C\$1.32

The Directors today have declared a regular dividend on the 17,578,125 Common Shares N.P.V. payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on 18th November 1994 at the rate of 62 cents (Canadian) per share. The comparative figure for 1993 was 57 cents per share. The payment date for this dividend is 9th December 1994.

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June 1994 together with the Notice of the Thirty Third Annual Meeting will be posted to Shareholders on the 21st October 1994 with the usual press announcement appearing the same day. The Thirty Third Annual Meeting will be held on 29th November 1994. Full details will be circulated with the Notice of the Meeting.

8th October 1994
Suits 1212, Brunswick Square, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2V1.

By Order of the Board:
M. C. Johnston, C.L.C.
Director and Secretary

BARCLAYS BANK: Andrew Buxton and Martin Taylor

Old and new turn leadership into joint account

POWER

A former journalist and a banker from a founding family are sharing roles in a new Barclays. Patricia Tehan reports

The boardroom of Barclays Bank has been the scene of a series of dramatic and controversial events in the past four years. The appointment of a new chief executive in January followed a year of intense media and shareholder criticism of Andrew Buxton who had at first resisted pressure to split the roles of chairman and chief executive. It also came as Barclays was on the road to recovery after suffering the first loss in its history.

In April 1992, Buxton's plans to take over the combined role attracted criticism that this was too much concentration of power. His timing was superb, coming as institutional shareholders were voicing support for Sir Adrian Cadbury's recommendation that there should be a separation of power at the top.

Buxton bowed to pressure. Then came the appointment of Martin Taylor. Not only did his £737,500 annual pay packet raise eyebrows, but here was a journalist turned textile manufacturer with little knowledge of banking coming in to run Britain's biggest bank.

At the beginning of this year, with an almost perceptible sigh of relief, Buxton handed over the day-to-day running of Barclays to Taylor.

Ever since then, all eyes have been on the pair to see if Buxton can let go, and if Taylor is up to the job. Perhaps more than anything, people want to know if they are getting on.

It is a question that irritates both. They insist that, in spite of the drama surrounding the appointment, they most certainly do get on.

There is a 13-year age gap, and they do not look alike, which, they say, leads some people to assume that they are very different personalities with different approaches to business. Buxton, 55, is still formal and reserved. His image is that of

the traditional banker — pinstripe suit, white shirt and plain tie. Taylor, 42, has an altogether more relaxed image. He leans back in his chair, fidgets and waves his arms, gesturing around the room. His soft suits, coloured shirts and jazzy ties lend an informal image.

However, Buxton says: "We do see eye to eye on a remarkable number of issues." He says that he has heard himself described as "a tremendously traditional banker who does not want anything to change," but he argues: "I would not have gone out to recruit Martin if I did not want more changes."

Buxton announced his change of mind in January 1993. He says: "When I set out to recruit a chief executive, I wanted the best business manager we could find. It did not matter whether he was a banker or not."

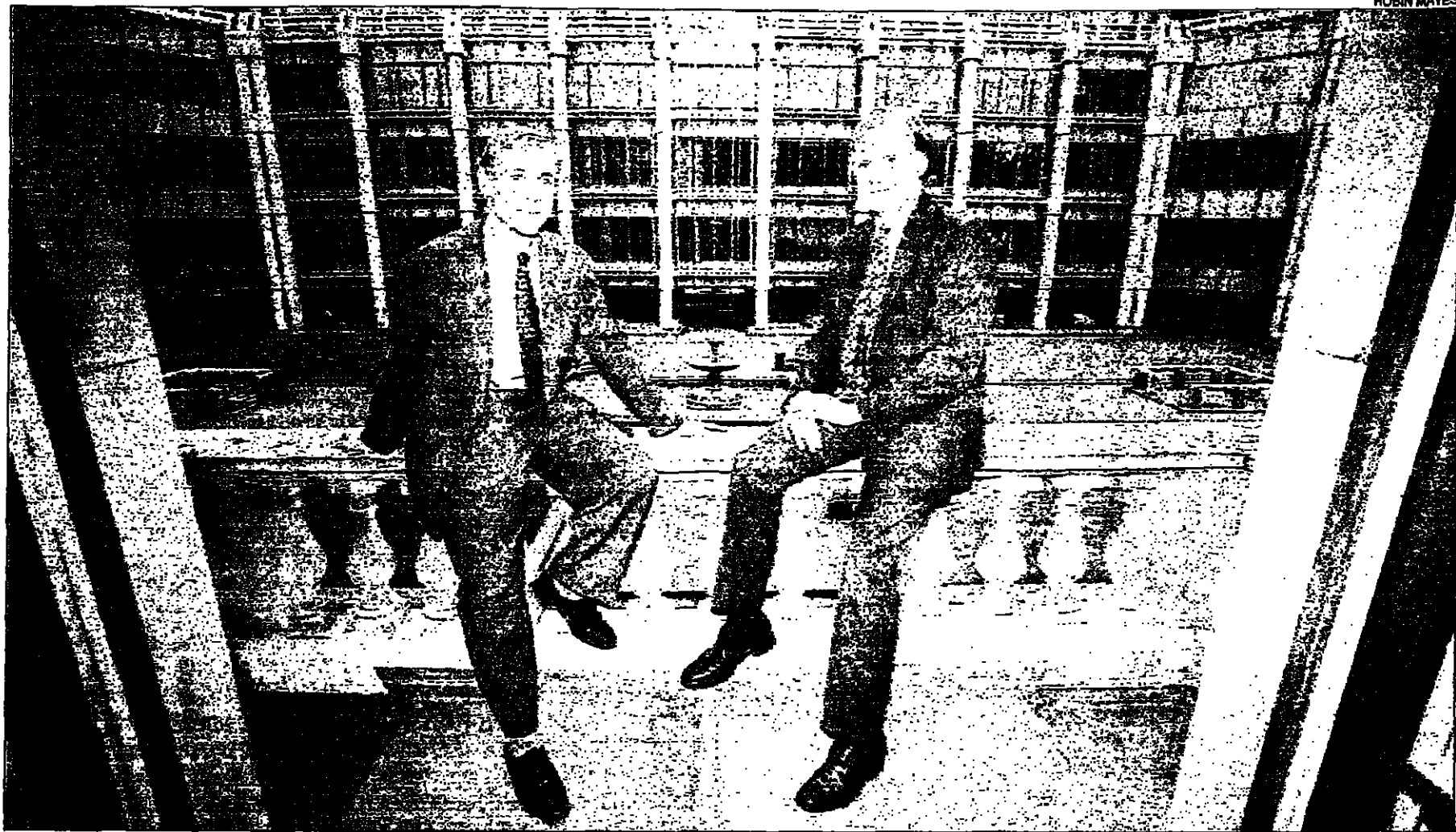
Although their job descriptions were set out on paper, he says: "When it actually comes to working as a partnership, the job descriptions got slightly blurred."

Buxton's own job description as chairman would make him responsible for the strategy of the group, "but it is inconceivable that the group should not be heavily affected by the chief executive".

Because Barclays has been Buxton's life. As a member of one of the bank's founding families, it was natural that he would work for Barclays. He joined the bank 31 years ago. He says Taylor, still very new to Barclays and to banking, is able to use him as a sounding board.

Any initial apprehension about Taylor's appointment among the bank's senior managers soon vanished, Buxton says. "Martin has the ability to be a nice person at the same time and to manage people," he says. "That is a marvellous quality in a very senior manager."

All eyes have been on the pair to see if Buxton can let go, and if Taylor is up to the job



Andrew Buxton, left, chairman of Barclays, and Martin Taylor, chief executive. Buxton declares it a huge relief to have this "very competent person running the business"

Many find it hard to believe that Buxton handed over the reins willingly, but he says that he was glad to do so: "It was a huge relief to know that I had a very competent person running the business." The decision to split the roles "certainly benefited me personally", Buxton says. With Taylor running the bank, Buxton says that it gives him time to think about the business.

The two have worked together part-time since last November and full-time since January. Their roles are, therefore, still evolving, and "the relationship will inevitably change as Martin gets to know the business better". Buxton admires Taylor's management ability and direct approach, though he acknowledges that their short relationship has yet to be tested.

□□□ Martin Taylor says that he was determined to start the new job as he meant to go on. "One of the things that I regretted very much in

my last role was that I was not direct enough," he says. When he became chief executive of Court-aud's Textiles, he was much younger than managers working for him. "I found it very difficult to be as direct as my instincts told me that I ought to be," he says. As a result, he believes that he lost ground and wasted time. "I was determined when I came to Barclays not to repeat my mistake, so perhaps Andrew is seeing the new me, being determined to face up to things straight away," he says.

Taylor's task has been helped by the improvement in the bank's financial results. Taylor says that he was not coming in to help to turn the business round, because that was already happening: "It was what happened next that was important."

After the drama surrounding Taylor's appointment, the City was keen for an early sign of his

impact. That came in April, when he announced sweeping senior management changes and a restructuring of divisions. He hopes that future changes will be less exciting to the outside world "but of quite durable value internally".

In his new job, Taylor says, he has to be more obviously rational about things and less intuitive, "and actually I am quite an intuitive person and I got to a stage in my last job that I was relying, probably to an excessive extent, on intuition".

He says that some intuitive habits are returning where he will "decide things first and work out why later". Though he says his intuition is "less often wrong than logical deduction with a flawed premise".

Buxton's sense of the bank's history has been of great help to Taylor. Without an understanding of an organisation's dynamics, he says, "you get a lot wrong".

As Taylor starts to rely more on intuition, he will "make more subtle and intelligent use of Andrew and my other colleagues".

He pressed the point of the separation of the roles at interview because "it was absolutely essential that I could feel that Andrew really did want me to come here... and was not just making an appointment because he felt that he was being pushed into it."

He says that people's view, at the time, that Buxton simply wanted to keep power in his hands, "if you know him, is a ridiculous idea."

He says: "The thing I most admire about Andrew is his courage. You only have to go to our annual general meeting to see that. It is a ridiculous place to have it displayed, but there it is." He admires the way "Andrew actually brought the bank through the last couple of years under enormous attack. I like people who do that. It is a rare quality."

Far from finding Buxton reluctant to let go, he says that "Andrew was very anxious to get me up and running as soon as he could... If anything, he was pushing things on to me faster than I felt entirely comfortable with."

Although Taylor is the more outgoing, he finds it hard to be constantly on display having to be "cheerful, incisive and awake". He says: "I am not actually wildly extrovert and I suffer from severe personality overstretch in this job. It makes him want to bury himself away at weekends. It is getting easier, though, as people at Barclays get to know him better."

Buxton says that he is not a bombastic, domineering character. If he were, perhaps he would not have split the job, Taylor says that if he had been, he wouldn't have come. He says: "It would be terrible if Andrew had handed over his executive authority and then felt constant doubts about whether it was in good hands."

Bankers and brokers learn alternative skills at the circus

Hanging around is serious business

Jon Ashworth looks at the latest place where City types find a variation to an expensive gym

City high-flyers are heading for the flying trapeze. The Circus Space, a school for jugglers and trapeze artists built in the shell of the old Shoreditch power station in east London, is packing in bankers and brokers looking to relax after a day at the dealing screens.

The school, a registered charity supported by SG Warburg, Slaughter and May and Dewe Rogerson, is fast emerging as an alternative venue for corporate hospitality functions, as well as providing an outlet for stressed executives.

Charlie Holland, production and marketing director, said The Circus Space is the only venue in Britain where one can learn the full range of circus skills. "What we offer is a whole range of classes for people of all dispositions and backgrounds," said Mr Holland, 33. "There is increasing interest from people in the City. You can either join an incredibly expensive gym, or get the same effect with much more fun."

Supporters of the project include Richard Branson, who has hired the trapeze act for parties at his Oxfordshire estate. Many of the clients are computing staff from the City who, it seems, have an aptitude for juggling. They have been known to work out theoretical juggling sequences on their computers before coming in to attempt the real thing. Staff from Hoare Govett, Goldman Sachs and SG Warburg have tried their luck.

Isabelle Terrillon, who devises complex financial structures for Nomura, has become a dab hand on the flying trapeze. "I think it's more exciting than bungee jumping or parachuting," says Ms Terrillon, 29, who discovered the trapeze while holidaying in the Caribbean ten years ago. "Not only is it a thrilling experience, but it's an art and a great way to exercise. You really learn a lot. Each time I go there I get the thrill of my life."

The Square Mile has done much to support the project. SG Warburg helped to raise £500,000 of the £2 million needed to turn the once-derelect power station off Hoxton Square in Hackney into a world-class training



City high-flyer: Isabelle Terrillon of Nomura trying the trapeze

venue for circus performers. Slaughter and May wrote the lease. Dewe Rogerson designed a fund-raising brochure and looks after marketing and public relations. Together, the firms have contributed free time and advice worth an estimated £200,000 on top of funds already raised.

Grime-stained workers who kept the turbines running before the power station shut down more than 40 years ago would be hard-pressed to recognise their former home. Rotting floorboards have been replaced, the walls

have been scrubbed down and a new roof has been thrown over some of the chambers. Ropes have been strung from ceilings and temporary floodlights have been rigged up. About a third of the site has been developed so far.

The aim is to create a world-class circus training and production centre that will have something to offer the local community. Rehearsal and dance studios will be built in chambers that once housed generators and incinerators. There are plans for a café

overlooking a paved courtyard. Pinstriped types can sit in on a range of evening classes covering everything from tumbling for beginners to advanced flying trapeze. Bankers keen to work off the business flab may care to try their hand at stilts, walking on the tightrope. More manic types can try whip cracking or knife throwing — always useful in the dealing room.

Courses typically cost £20 for three sessions. There is also potential for team-building and corporate hospitality events. A company could hire the venue for the afternoon for about £500 — what some firms are willing to pay for a single ticket to Wimbledon. "We sometimes have groups of 24-30 people in for the afternoon," said Mr Holland. "It's good for team building. You don't get to stand on someone else's shoulders every day."

The school, set up in 1989, moved to its new home in July after temporarily occupying a derelict timber store in Islington, north London. Attendance by aspirant artists has grown from little more than 2,500 in the first year to more than 15,000 last year. Financial turnover has grown from about £16,000 to more than £240,000 in the same period. The number of users is expected to double to 30,000 once the site is fully developed.

The aim is to make The Circus Space one of the top four or five circus skills training centres in the world. Mr Holland is grateful for any support. "Circus is an area that tends to get marginalised," he said. "It's not in the sports or arts funding systems but has a lot to do with both. We are regenerating the circus tradition and moving it along."

The efforts have not been without success. One former student has been accepted by the exclusive French National Circus School — one of only 12 students taken in for a two-year internship. More than 200 trainees have gone on to perform in a range of productions all over the world, with companies from Australia's Circus Oz to amateur productions of Barnum. Evening cabaret performances are attracting a growing audience.

Mr Holland is looking for sponsors willing to lend their names to rooms and chambers. He said: "There is an opportunity in circus for an imaginative company to have something that is unique." The immediate task is to find £13,000 for a sunken gymnastic and trampolining pit.

Companies with cash to spare will not be turned away. Anyone else who fancies him or herself as a juggler or high-wire performer is just as welcome.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Phrased in the bland language investment bankers employ for even the most dramatic corporate move, Warburg said that it may make only £55m-£65m this year. After taking out the expected contribution from Mercury Asset Management, Warburg has effectively admitted its 4,500-strong workforce may end the year without making any profits at all...

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difference

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

London Electricity dims after spending £103m

LONDON Electricity lit up the stock market after spending a staggering £103 million buying back 7 per cent of its issued share capital.

The share price slipped 2p to 683p as Warburg Securities, the broker, swooped, paying 67p for a total of 15.3 million shares after receiving shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its own shares at the annual meeting in August. By the close of business almost 33 million shares had changed hands.

Meanwhile, Eastern Electricity stood out with a rise of 19p to 762p. It is expected to announce details of a major rationalisation programme, which may include job losses, when it meets brokers on Monday. It may also be ready to launch its own buy-back programme having received shareholder approval.

The remainder of the RECs closed mixed, not helped by a recommendation from Hoare Govett, the broker, to sell the sector.

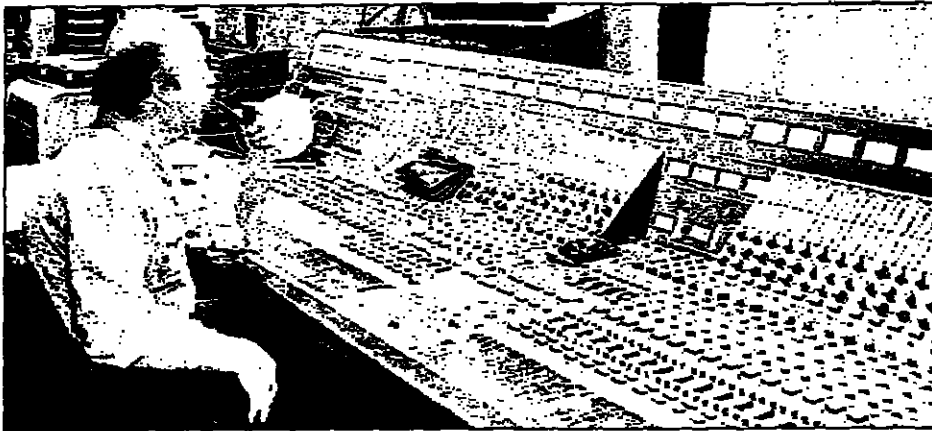
The rest of the equity market spent another volatile session with the FT-SE 100 index reversing an early fall of 17.6 to finish 14.3 up the day at 2,987.7, a fall on the week of almost 30 points.

Prices received an early boost from the better than expected trade deficit but there was little in the way of follow-through as investors anxiously awaited the latest American payroll and employment numbers. These received a mixed reception although on balance it was decided that they may have staved off a rise in interest rates for the time being, at least.

Once again turnover levels were low and by the close of business only 512 million shares had been traded. However, several large lines of stock went through the market including 7.4 million Enterprise shares at 373p. NatWest Securities, the broker, executed the business. Enterprise dropped 7p to 386p.

The oil sector took heart from a firmer oil price and the news of a build-up of Iraqi troops on the borders with Kuwait. BP rose 9p to 415p on talk of a buy recommendation from Cazenove, the broker.

News of the long awaited share buy-back programme lifted The Telegraph, publisher of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, 33p to 343p. Conrad Black,



Tuning in: London radio franchises were awarded yesterday

chairman, says his family vehicle, Hollinger, intends to purchase a total of 6.8 million shares, or 5 per cent of the issued share capital, at current market prices raising his stake back up to 62 per cent.

Back in May, Mr Black sold 12.5 million shares at 587p. A month later the cover price of *The Daily Telegraph* was cut to 30p and the company issued a profits warning. This prompted a fall in the share

price of 19p to 349p. The City was outraged by the move and Cazenove, the company's broker, subsequently resigned.

Lucas Industries fell 5p to 177p ahead of interim figures published on Monday that are expected to reveal hefty provisions against fines imposed by American regulators and further rationalisation charges.

The effects of current investor lethargy were clearly reflected in first-time dealings of ED&F Man which opened at a discount. Offered at 180p, shares of the commodities trader opened at 169p before

realigning to close at 172p, a discount of 8p. A total of 61.1 million shares were issued giving the group a price tag of £462 million. Of this number 45 million were placed with institutions while the rest were offered to the public.

Bluebird Toys touched 204p before ending the session 3p higher at 210p on learning that Torquil Norman, the chairman, had sold 1.8 million shares at 207p, equivalent to

adult contemporary music. Chrysalis and the other three successful candidates beat off 30 rivals to win the award.

Versen International, a 100 per cent subsidiary of its parent, the UK press business Clearing International, slipped 3p to 42p after receiving an all-paper offer from rival Dartmoor Investment Trust valuing the company at £52.4 million, or 42.7p a share.

Dartmoor, down 5p at 128p on the move, already owns 7 per cent of Sphère.

Mitie, the cleaning and building services group, has decided to bid for the outstanding 42 per cent stake in Trident Maintenance Services. It is issuing 746,649 shares to help finance the move, worth £1.34 at last night's closing price of 180p, unchanged.

GILT EDGED: Gilts suffered early falls of £4 ahead of the American payroll numbers and following overnight selling of US T-bonds over night in Japan. But prices later gathered up a head of steam in the wake of the latest American economic news and evidence of short covering.

The December series of the Long Gilt finished £17.16 better at £100.71, as 79,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 jumped £1.12 to £103.11, and at the shorter end Treasury 9 per cent 1999 was £1.16 better at £103.11.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares climbed at midday as investors reversed a selloff mood, gaining confidence that the economy's added muscle was not enough to cause alarm. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 17.16 points to 3,792.72.

Closing Prices Page 41

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

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Dec 2021-2022 Mar 2022-2023

Dec 2023-2024 Mar 2024-2025

Dec 2025-2026 Mar 2026-2027

TEMPUS

Tapping into C&W

CABLE and Wireless is in so many disparate markets that one begins to wonder at the new concept of the Cable and Wireless Federation. Does it include the principle of subsidiarity? Will slower-moving Mercury in the UK be allowed an opt-out from decisions taken to benefit the mighty Hong Kong Telecom?

A multiplicity of businesses inherited from Britain's colonial past without an anchor in a large national network — other than Hong Kong — has caused investors to doubt C&W's strength on a global scale. This week, however, the doubters were forced to look again as the French government chose a consortium led by Bouygues to establish a third mobile telephone network. C&W has a 20 per cent stake, and the gamble is that the injection of better marketing and price competition, similar to Mercury One-2-One,

will send the French reaching for handsets. The market across the Channel is wide open with only 700,000 subscribers compared with 2.7 million mobile phone users in the UK, a market growing almost 5 times faster.

Some analysts are adding as much as 12p to the C&W share price for its share of the Bouygues consortium, but there may be more substantial reasons to re-rate C&W shares, trading at 390p. On a sum-of-the-parts basis, Smith Newcourt values the company at 520p, incorporating market values for the company's stakes in HK Telecom, Mercury and its other businesses. A break-up of C&W is a doubtful prospect because of the problem of transferring licences around the world but this week, the company proved that joint ventures can take the company beyond its colonial inheritance.

Radio

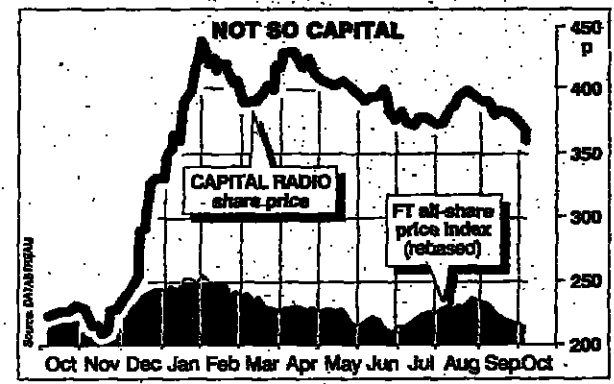
CAPITAL was always expected to emerge as a loser from yesterday's London radio franchise awards, with the creation of one new rock-oriented station to counter the duopoly on pop radio Capital enjoys with the ailing Radio 1 in London.

Capital now faces three competitors: the Chrysalis-backed adult contemporary station and Virgin's rock channel, while the Viva magazine format broadcaster, with some music content, will also inevitably have an impact. Capital counters that it has been here before, with the arrival of Kiss, Melody, Jazz and Spectrum in 1990. None cracked its impressive market share, now a fifth of all listening hours in the capital and about two thirds of all radio advertising revenue, but none were as broad-based

and as attractive to advertisers as the new entrants. Since then, however, Capital has been diversifying strongly across the country.

Total radio advertising revenues rose by 25 per cent last year against an advertising market up just 4 per cent, a performance that looks set to be repeated over the next couple of years. The

clearest winner was Chrysalis. Now short of the music business that caused so much grief in the past, the group is building its TV, film and radio business, and its start-up *Heart FM* in the Midlands is already taking market share from Capital's BRMB station. The shares hit a new high yesterday but could have further to go.



E D & F Man

THE poor outturn to the E D & F Man float should come as little surprise, but it is damning news for the less. The issue price had to be moved down 20p to 180p because of market instability, but it is not enough just to blame the fall in shares since the pricing. For the record, the FT-SE has fallen little more than a percentage point since then, but the discount to the offer price is approaching 5 per cent.

Man always laboured under a comprehension gap: most of the City viewed it as a commodity trader rather than a food processing and financial services business. The company made valiant attempts to counter this impression, but the public offer was little more than once subscribed.

The poor start to trading is especially unfortunate for forthcoming new issues. Man is a well-established and well-run business, not a

one-product chancer but there appeared to be no compelling reason to float Man now other than to make a few dozen people instant millionaires.

The recent warnings from Warburg *et al* of the prospects for securities trading will not have helped perceptions of Man's fund management business, and the company as a whole cannot expect to perform outstandingly in bear markets. At their lower level, the prospective yield on the shares begins to approach 7 per cent, which suggests they may not decline any further.

Argyll

The sale of another chunk of Lo-Cost stores to the Co-op is a welcome sign that Argyll is ridding itself of a business that was achieving low returns and more importantly was distracting management from the key concern of boosting sales at Safeway. Argyll expects to get £73 mil-

lion for the 101 units sold to the Co-op. Add to that figure the £20 million due from Spar for the Lo-Cost stores sold in June and, by curious coincidence, Argyll's total proceeds from disposals match the £93 million book value of the assets. Assuming Argyll can sell the remaining 50 Lo-Cost outlets, the company should make a small profit on the deal.

Given the state of the food retailing market, Argyll was lucky to find a buyer at a sensible price, for the stores but there are some signs that the big retailers are losing their enthusiasm for bloodletting. In this business, what the shopper perceives the price level to be is almost as important as the actual price paid and Argyll has been working hard with its Savers campaign to reverse perceptions that Safeway is more expensive than its rivals. Results in November should show a useful improvement in sales leaving the shares cheap at less than 11 times earnings.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FT-SE 100

Dec 1995-1996 Mar 1996-1997

Dec 1997-1998 Mar 1998-1999

PENSION POSER 31

Choosing the right type of annuity

WEEKEND MONEY

BENEFITS FEAR 34

Repossessions could rise say lenders



Banks put their future on the line

Sara McConnell reports on the imminent expansion of banking by telephone

If you have not seen the inside of your bank or building society recently, the chances are that you conduct all your banking business over the phone. Overcoming their initial scepticism, banks are responding to what they say is significant customer demand for telephone banking, to the extent that almost all customers will have this option by the end of the year.

Until recently, the only bank with human beings on the other end of the line 24 hours a day, seven days a week was First Direct, the telephone banking arm of the Midland. Last weekend, it was joined by TSB Phonebank. Customers of other banks have to ring between prescribed times or give instructions to a computer rather than a human being. None of the large banks has so far copied Midland in creating a totally separate telephone banking arm with its own accounts and customers. Instead, they see them as primarily an option for existing branch customers. NatWest and TSB already offer telephone banking, while Barclays' service starts next month. Lloyds is piloting a scheme and will make an announcement at the end of this year.

But now, Bank of Scotland seems set to take on First Direct at its own game. The Scottish bank is to set up a

telephone banking arm, Banking Direct. It will have its own cheque and investment accounts and will be trying to attract its own customers, particularly south of the border. For the first time in telephone banking's short history, customers will be able to make all calls free, instead of paying the cost of a local call.

As a further incentive, Banking Direct customers will pay 9.5 per cent a year for authorised overdrafts, half the 18.5 per cent a year Bank of Scotland charges branch customers on standard current accounts.

First Direct is unshaken by Bank of Scotland's move. Kevin Newman, the bank's chief executive said: "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. We would welcome anyone in terms of growing the market." First Direct is not planning to offer customers free calls. A local call to the bank costs them on average 7p a time, which is not a "key issue" for customers, Mr Newman said.

Banking Direct is an extension of Bank of Scotland's existing telephone banking service, which was open only from 8am to 8pm and charged for each call. It also adds to the bank's existing home and office banking service (Hobs), which lets customers link into

their bank account via a computer screen.

But like most other telephone banking services, anything more complicated than what Lloyds Bank calls the "bread and butter" of banking, such as mortgages, life assurance or pensions, needs to be arranged separately.

If you bank over the phone with NatWest or Barclays, or are planning to with Lloyds, and you want a mortgage, you will be rung back by a mortgage adviser to arrange an interview in a branch. If you want details of a life policy or pension, the telephone banking department will send brochures; then you have to go into a branch.

Bank of Scotland is piloting a scheme whereby someone from the bank's residential mortgage division will phone back and agree a mortgage over the telephone.

First Direct can arrange your mortgage over the phone, sending you the documents to sign. You will have to arrange an interview, normally in a Midland branch, to buy a life assurance or pensions policy.

Household insurance is simpler to arrange if you use a telephone banking service, although you will probably have to talk to a different division of the bank.

Drive-in banking, page 32



Alexander Graham Bell could not have dreamt his invention could lead to the demise of traditional banking

Dial a loan for movers in a hurry

A growing number of lenders is looking at dial-a-mortgage services for borrowers uninterested in visiting branches but wanting fast decisions. It follows the success of existing telephone mortgage services and the popularity of phone-a-loan and dial-a-quote facilities for personal loans, home, and motor insurance.

The Nationwide, Leeds Permanent, Alliance & Leicester, Bradford & Bingley and Derbyshire are among those considering the idea. John Oake, operations general manager at the Derbyshire, said: "We have done consumer research and have been very surprised to find a growing market of individuals who want to do business with an organisation but don't want to visit its branches." This has prompted the society to consider telephone mortgages.

"Telephone selling is growing in popularity. Diversity of distribution will be one of the measures of successful, sustainable organisations in the next decade", Mr Oake added.

Nationwide is exploring similar territory — but without firm plans yet. Leeds Permanent is also keen. "A growing number of customers would like an additional facility," it said. Bradford & Bingley, is "looking with interest" at the trends. "We would certainly consider doing something in the near future," Rex Kirk, marketing support manager, lending, said.

The Woolwich, Britain's third-largest mortgage lender, reports a "very encouraging" response to its Woolwich Direct service. Launched in August, it operates between 8.30am and 9.30pm from Monday to Friday, giving in-principle decisions within five minutes.

"We have had dozens of good-quality cases going through," Catherine Shaw, Woolwich Direct executive, said. Borrowers need a minimum 20 per cent deposit, so second and third-time buyers are likely to be the main users. National & Provincial also reports "a good response" to its freecall-linked N&P Direct system, which started operating in England and Wales in April, extending to Scotland and Northern Ireland a month ago.

Abbey National Direct has had more than one million calls since its launch in 1989, and arranged 4,000 mortgages last year alone. It was the first full service of its type, handling everything from applicants' initial inquiries to mortgage interviews, home loan applications and insurances. The service is open 9am-9pm every weekday.

Others are more cautious. The Alliance & Leicester, whose 24-hour telephone bank account, Alliance, was launched in July, said it is "looking into" telephone mortgages.

NICOLA COLE

BANK OF SCOTLAND BANKING DIRECT

■ Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
■ Free telephone calls.

■ Cheque account with an automatic overdraft facility of up to £250. You will have to pay the authorised overdraft rate of 9.5 per cent, but there is no fee. Authorised overdrafts over £250 are charged at 9.5 per cent, plus a fee of 38p per transaction. The interest rate on unauthorised overdrafts is 20.25 per cent.

■ An instant access investment account with a rate of 5.75 per cent gross, 4.31 per cent net monthly.

■ A three-in-one £100 cheque guarantee card, Switch debit and cash card accepted in Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds, Barclays and Link dispensers.

■ A Visa or Mastercard with no annual fee in the first year,

or beyond if you spend £2,000 or more on the card.
■ £10 compensation: if the bank makes a mistake.

FIRST DIRECT

■ Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
■ Calls charged at local rate.

■ Cheque account with automatic overdraft of £250. You pay the authorised overdraft rate of 12 per cent a year, but no arrangement fee. If your overdraft exceeds £250 you pay 18 per cent and an arrangement fee of 1 per cent of the limit, minimum £20. Unauthorised overdrafts cost 23.4 per cent a year.

■ Premier cheque account with arranged overdraft of up to £10,000 at 8.75 per cent. Unauthorised overdrafts cost 23.4 per cent.

■ Three-in-one £100 cheque guarantee card, Switch debit card and cash point card

accepted in NatWest, and Midland.
■ Visa card with no annual fee in the first year, or beyond if you spend £2,000 or more. Otherwise the fee is £10. Interest is charged at 1.55 per cent a month, 21.4 per cent a year.

BARCLAYCALL

■ Launching next month.
■ Open 7am to 11pm weekdays and 9am to 5pm weekends, 365 days a year. Telephones manned by humans.
■ Calls charged at local rate.
■ Aimed mainly at customers who already have an account at a Barclays branch, so the range of accounts is the same.
■ Customers will get "basic, over-the-phone banking" including balances, paying bills and transferring money.

TSB PHONEBANK

■ Launched last week.
■ Calls charged at local rate.

■ Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, staffed by humans.
■ Aimed mainly at existing customers.

NATWEST ACTIONLINE

■ Operated 24 hours a day by a free tonepad. A computerised voice prompts you.
■ Calls charged at local rate.
■ Customers can transfer funds, pay bills, order statements and get balances.
■ The range of accounts is the same as at NatWest.

NATWEST PRIMELINE

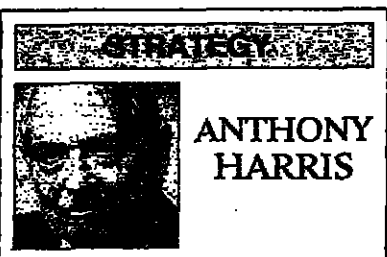
■ Customers are allocated their own Primeline adviser, with whom they can discuss their banking affairs.
■ Calls charged at local rate.
■ Open between 8am and 10pm on weekdays and 9am to 5pm at weekends.
■ Customers normally need to earn at least £18,000 a year.

Negative equities

Do you shut your eyes in the gory parts of a thriller? I quite often do. Short of staying away in the first place, it is a reliable way of protecting your chances of a refreshing sleep; and the same strategy works well in the kind of security markets we have seen in the last month. The statistics show that most investors follow it: while prices have been executing their St Vitus' Dance routine, turnover has remained so low that City chairmen have been voicing something near despair. No bonuses this year. Which only goes to show even in the markets there is still justice: they had it coming.

In their after-market revels — more often wakes these days — some City professionals talk of people like you as "the mugs". The mugs were excited today; or recently, the mugs weren't biting. They need this myth to keep their spirits up: we are the sheep for shearing. At times, the myth is frightening. Wall Street has for months been full of talk of the black hole which would appear if the mutual fund investors panicked and tried to liquidate.

In fact, though, private investors do not behave like this: they behave like house-owners. When prices fall, they sit tight. Legend speaks of the man who plunged heavily in Midland Railway just before the 1929 slump; he held on until he was bailed out with a profit by nationalisation, nearly 20 years later. Then they broke out the champagne, the story ends, at Midland Bank, which had financed him. (Perhaps it was bankers who engineered the vote to keep Clause



ANTHONY HARRIS

Four.) It is professionals, not private investors, who give way to panic now and then; and at the moment many are bitterly aware that if they want to see a mug, they should look in the mirror. The panic, it is true, is not a personal weakness: it is done by computers. The professional gamblers are playing the usual game of market professionals, taking very small percentages on very large portfolios: say a "carry" of less than 1 per cent between the cost of borrowed funds and the return on a portfolio of short bonds. They are used to very large profits (Stanley Druckenmiller, chief dealer for George Soros, is reported to have taken home a personal bonus of more than \$300 million last year). If that sort of money is to be generated by a 1 per cent carry, the underlying investment (and the loan to finance it) is astronomical. In London there was a bulge in this kind of lending at the end of last year, but much seems to have been repaid. In Wall Street, though, there is still well over \$200 billion — outstanding.

Now you can understand why a half-point rise in interest rates generates

computerised panic. Half or more of the carry is gone, and the rest may go: it would be nail-biting and probably loss-making work to hold even short bonds to maturity. These holders, though, don't get the chance: as bond prices fall their collateral erodes — negative equity on a world scale — and the bank computers send out stop-loss sell orders. Many US hedge funds have lost between a third and a half of their value this year, and some failed.

Remember, too, that these are shark-infested waters. John Percival of Chesor, the currency specialists, has monitored entirely credible reports of aggressive selling by the stronger funds, designed to trigger a cascade of stop-loss selling. This helps the aggressor to buy back into the markets cheaply, and it drives competitors out of business. That is what is meant by a bear market — a market in which speculators try to drive prices down, not up. This one is unusually vicious and persistent because this is a global market. London, with its relatively high returns, attracted a lot of Wall Street professional money, and it seems to have been mainly American selling that has had such an impact on the thin London market. Since the American bears are still deep in debt, there is a high risk of more selling raids.

But the moral, as you should have detected, is quite different. A bear market is not an occasion for the soundly-financed outsider to sell, or even just to keep his head down. It is a buying opportunity.

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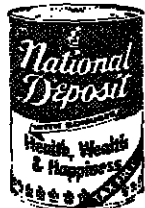
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Friendly Society beats Money Marketing survey

Proof that the safe option can also be very profitable



Traditional wisdom has it that friendly societies, with their traditional values and cautious investment of their members' money, find it difficult to compete with the heavy-weight, powerful investors from the major life institutions.

Yet, according to a recent survey carried out by Money Marketing magazine, just the opposite has proved to be true.

Their survey of 10 year with-profits policies maturing on 1st April 1994, was based on a male aged 30 next birthday at outset, paying a premium of £35 per month over 10 years - in all, a total of £4200 in premiums. Of the 27 major life institutions surveyed, maturity values ranged from £6521 up to £8427. Had National Deposit Friendly Society's ten year savings plan been included in their figures at £8429*, it would have come out £2 ahead of the top, big institution performer, and an incredible £430 ahead of the next best result!

*An equivalent annual return of 15.33% net.

Biggest, is by no means always the best

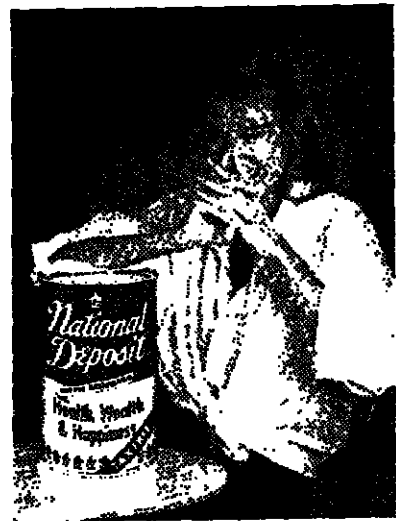
As a relatively small player in the financial services market, National Deposit did not feature in the survey (although the Society's assets do, in fact, exceed £100 million.)

However, a comparison of the results of the survey with figures available from National Deposit, prove that if you're looking to invest your money wisely for a high return, make sure that you carry

out a thorough and wide search of the market before you make a commitment. You'll find that the biggest institutions are not necessarily the best.

Tax Free benefits

The proceeds of the National Deposit Ten Year Savings Plan are paid totally tax free on maturity. In addition, the tax exempt element of your premium (the first £18 per month or £200 per year) is invested in a tax exempt fund, which is



completely free of all taxation. This increases the surpluses to be used for bonuses.

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Choosing to invest a lump sum with the Society to generate annual payments for

your 10 Year Savings Plan will save you even more money. For example, on a single lump sum investment of £4000 the Society will guarantee the payment of 10 annual premiums of £500 - a total of £5000! What's more, you can watch your money grow every year, since the bonuses attached to policies are guaranteed and cannot be withdrawn.

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A secure 'home from home' for your money

More and more people are turning towards friendly societies because they know they are run by the Members (policy holders) - people just like them. They want to be part of a Society that frequently out-performs its rivals in the marketplace. A Society that maximises tax benefits. And most important of all, a Society that guarantees a secure home for their money - The National Deposit Friendly Society.

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The Vatman is giving clubs a sporting chance, Liz Dolan reports



Concessions available to non-profit making sports clubs could stop the Vatman winning game, set and match

Sports club organisers have been urged to beef up their knowledge of tax rules in order to make full use of two recent government concessions - value-added tax exemption for non-profit making clubs and the trickle-down effect of the National Lottery.

According to Touche Ross, the accountant, people who decide to take on the organisation of a sports club's financial affairs are often unaware of the tax pitfalls, or even benefits, involved. They may not have the expertise or resources to deal with such issues, it says. At the same time, the average tennis, bowls or cricket club cannot necessarily afford to employ expensive accountants to do the job for them.

Although about £10 million a year has been put back into sport as a result of the new VAT exemption for sports clubs, Touche Ross points out that the sports community still contributes substantial amounts of VAT to the Exchequer. For every £1 of government money received, almost £7 still goes back to the taxman, some of which is paid unnecessarily. The accountant has linked with the Sports Council to launch two booklets: *Taxation*

Play by the VAT rules

- a guide for sports organisations and VAT and Sport. Written in plain English, they are both intended to show organisations how to make maximum use of funds raised for the benefit of members.

Meanwhile, sports are beginning to fly in amateur sports clubs as VAT rebate cheques start to drop on to treasurers' doormats. Changes in Customs & Excise rules, announced on April 1, mean that non-profit making clubs can now apply for VAT rebates on subscriptions paid after January 1, 1990. While committees are on the whole keen to hang on to the cheques and use

them for the benefit of the club as a whole, some members are equally keen to claw back their share of the cash.

According to Peter Duboff, the accountant, a mini-riot took place recently at Hartsbourne Golf & Country Club, in Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire when the committee announced that a tax rebate worth up to £487,000 would be retained for the club as a whole rather than returned to individual members.

Taxation - a guide for sports organisations and VAT and Sport are available free from 071-936 3000

HOW TO UNBURDEN YOURSELF

- Avoid the need to register for VAT by:
 - a) organising sections of the club into independent units;
 - b) organising certain events outside the club.
- Avoid VAT liability by obtaining a donation from people in exchange for tickets for events.
- Remember that there is

a longer VAT cashflow benefit for an invoice issued at the start of a VAT quarter rather than the end. Sponsorship money is normally VATable, but some sponsors, such as banks and building societies, are partially exempt. Part of a sponsorship package may be eligible for relief.

- Make sure that VAT is charged where it is due. If not, you may be unable to recover it later.
- If your financial record-keeping is seriously behind, ask permission from Customs & Excise, in writing, to submit an estimated return rather than risk a fine for a late return.

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*Source: Microcap 3/9/84 - 12/9/94 movement of FTSE 100 (large companies) vs. Moore Govett Smaller Companies Index. Net Income reinvested. **Whitby stocks last.

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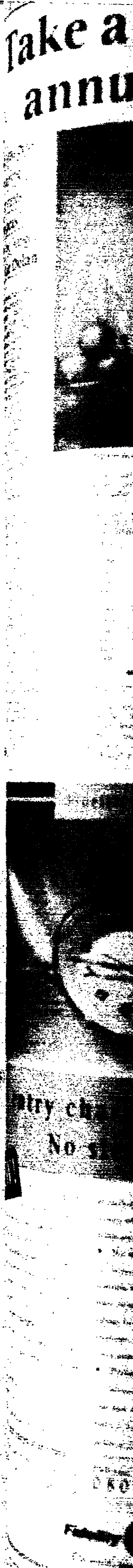
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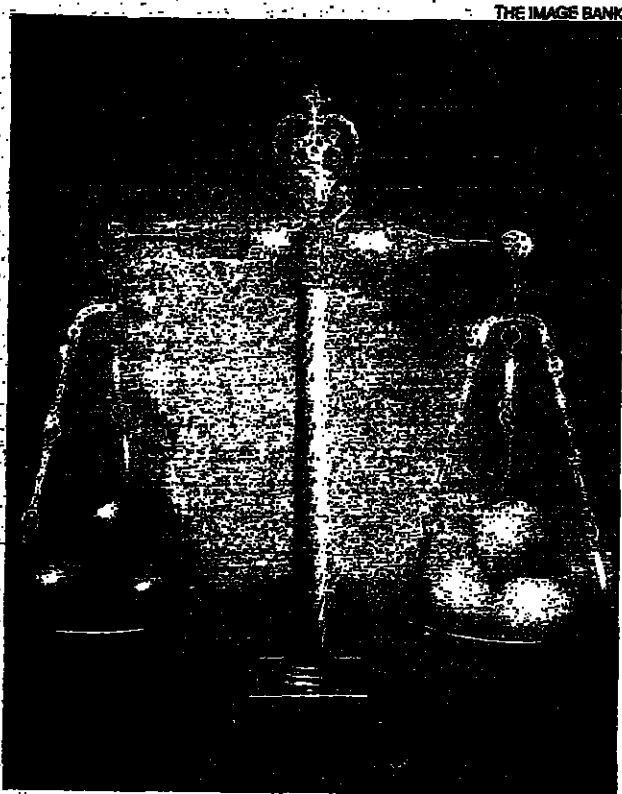
Take a gamble on annuities now

Have you been waiting for rates to peak? Delay no longer, says Liz Dolan

People who have delayed buying annuities should consider making the plunge, says Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau. After rising strongly in the first half of the year, annuity rates are showing signs of peaking. While many annuity providers have again increased their rates over the past two or three weeks, others have decided to bring their rates down. According to Mr Quinton, this apparent disagreement over trends could be a sign that the current state of increases is coming to an end. But, he warns purchasers: "There is, unfortunately, no such thing as an annuity rate cycle, and it is difficult to second-guess the market."

An annuity is an income, usually paid monthly out of a non-returnable lump sum. Personal pension plan holders buy an annuity with their retirement fund. They do not have to stay with the company that managed their pension fund, but are free to buy from the company offering the best rates at the time. Once an annuity has been bought, the money cannot be returned. Pensioners and other purchasers are stuck with the result for the rest of their lives. It is, therefore, vital to shop around, when, for instance, a pension plan matures, rather than locking yourself into what might be an exceedingly poor rate offered by the company that managed your pension fund.

At any one time, there can be as much as a 25 per cent difference between the best



It is difficult to guess how annuities will weigh up

and worst providers. Even between the top performers, rates generally differ by up to 6 per cent.

Those who can afford to choose when to buy an annuity have two options. Mr Quinton says, "Neither is easy — but timing the purchase of an annuity never is. If they believe that the Government will be able to keep interest rates and inflation at low levels, they should buy now. If they think interest rates are likely to carry on rising, they should wait."

The decision is made more difficult by the fact that even the experts are divided on what is likely to happen to interest rates over the next year or so. Although many are

still convinced that the recent base rate rise is likely to be the first of several before next summer, some say that these fears have been overdone.

The recent increase in base rates, and current fluctuations in the bond market, have injected a high degree of uncertainty into the money markets. Long-term gilt yields rose to 9.25 per cent on September 20, their highest level for two years. Annuity rates have jumped by an average of 16.5 per cent since the beginning of 1994, and are now higher than at any time in well over a year.

Canada Life increased its annuity rates on September 9, 12 and 22, and boosted its temporary annuity rates on September 15. But, just ten days

later, it reduced all its rates, and, last Monday, October 3, it announced a further reduction. On the same day as that company announced its first rate reduction, however, Norwich Union announced an increase. Prudential increased rates the next day, to be followed the day after by Scottish Widows and Equitable Life, the latter by 4 per cent.

There are several types of annuity to choose from:

■ **Escalating annuity:** Under this option, your income is increased annually, giving you a hedge against inflation. It is particularly useful if you think you have a longer than average life expectancy. The most common rates of escalation are 3 per cent, 5 per cent or index-linked.

■ **Purchase life annuity:** The income from this is only partly taxable, unlike the income from a pension generated annuity, which is fully taxable. The tax-free cash from the matured fund can be used to buy a purchase life annuity. Further savings are possible for married couples who are in different tax bands as the annuity can be purchased in the name of the spouse in the lower tax band.

■ **Impaired life annuity:** If health problems are likely to reduce life expectancy, this will pay better rates.

If you suspect your life expectancy is shorter than average — because, for instance, your parents died at a relatively young age — it might be better to go for the highest level rate available, rather than to choose a pension that increases each year. This is because level-rate annuities start at a higher level than those that rise gradually over the years.

The Annuity Bureau advises on how to choose an annuity and on how to phase your retirement. Charges are either fee-based or commission-based. A free booklet, *You and Your Annuity*, is available on 071-261 1888.

WEEKEND MONEY COMMENT

One-in-six odds won't do

May the Lord protect investors from insurance companies, or at least the one in six that "significantly" failed their latest inspections by Lauro, their regulator.

Six years on from the Financial Services Act becoming law, some insurers appear to be still ignoring great chunks of it as they pursue a greater market share in preference to giving their customers greater protection.

There is little wonder that their probity rating is at an all-time low. Many in the industry claim that they have always acted thus and have served their customers well for more than a century. They might even imply — off the record, *sotto voce* — that their regulator fines and disciplines are for footling little paperwork misdemeanours. Not so.

The recent fines the regulators have imposed involved many serious breaches. We have even seen household name companies unable to reconcile investments with clients' money. All is put right when the regulators move in but can just as easily go wrong when the regulators depart.

We must now await the publication of the final Lauro annual report later this month. It will not name the persistent offenders revealed at the second round of inspection visits, who may have thought the regulations did not apply to

them. Nor will the report of the Securities and Investments Board — due about the same time — name the guilty companies who will have to pay out most to those ill-sold pension transfers.

The insurance-buying public will learn who they are as they are individually fined or publicly disciplined. In the meantime, Lauro has a lot of work to do before it can wash its hands of the murkier elements of the industry.

Lauro is quick to point out that 83 per cent of its members passed muster, but that really is not good enough. One company alone can do a lot of damage to the reputation of the industry. Companies who fail to check the policies that are sold by their agents obviously do not care about the wellbeing of customers. Some in the industry even hold the view that those life companies that design products which are capable of being widely mis-sold bear responsibility when independent financial advisers do the deed.

Customers must feel secure in the investment products they buy. They cannot be if they feel they have a one-in-six chance of being sold the wrong policy. Before the Financial Services Act was implemented, customers believed that dealing with a large household name was enough to safeguard their future. That is no longer the case.

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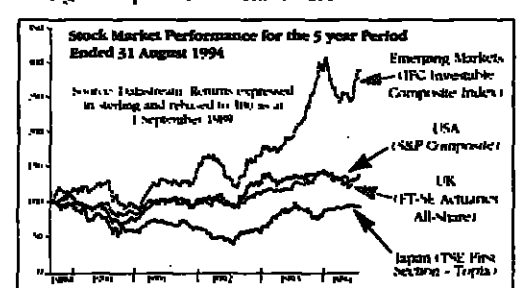
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Cash and carry: Tim Hills hands over a cheque at his local NatWest drive-in bank in Lexden, Colchester.

Just where did the drive-in banks go?

Whatever happened to American-style drive-in banks? Or mobile banks that brought their business to your door like a milkman delivering milk? These are just two examples of past fads — forerunners of holes in the wall, telephone banking, and all the other more recent developments in the drive to accommodate busy, or remotely located, bank customers.

After an initial flurry of interest in the 1960s and 1970s, the progress of drive-in banks was initially stalled by traffic snarl-ups. Later on, technological developments such as automated teller machines (ATMs) and dial-a-bank services were perceived as more effective ways of tapping the demand for speedier banking.

Recent moves to close and "merge" branches have done nothing for those who still prefer to visit their bank in person, however, and, where drive-ins remain, there is often still a demand for their services.

Tim Hills, a retired photographer, has been using his

Nicola Cole and Liz Dolan recall banking fads of the Sixties and Seventies that never quite caught on

local NatWest drive-in, in Lexden, Colchester, since he moved to a house three miles down the road two years ago. During that period, he has had to get out of the car only once — to discuss a long and complicated document.

Why does he use it? "Quite simply because you can stay in the car. You have to get out if you want to use a hole in the wall. It's especially useful when it's cold, or wet. Okay, you might say, why not go to the bank when you're visiting other shops in town? But you often just want to use the bank without going anywhere else."

The service is fast. Mr Hills has never had to queue behind more than two cars. "You just draw up at the window and stop. There's usually someone there. If there isn't, you press a button and someone comes. Then, a tray comes sliding out

of the wall, you put in your cheque book, card, paying-in slip, or whatever, and it slides back. They chuck in the money etc and slide it back to you. It's simple."

Westminster Bank, now part of National Westminster, opened Britain's first drive-in bank in Liverpool 35 years ago. Located in Princes Road, Toxteth, it was destroyed by fire in the 1982 riots. Now rebuilt, it offers a kerbside pull-up and cashier-operated slide-in/slide-out tray. It is heavily used by local firms for security reasons. "They don't have to walk here to deposit money," NatWest explains.

The Toxteth branch is one of four NatWest drive-ins. The others are in Watford, Colchester and Gidea Park, Romford. Lloyds has two drive-in banks — at Aylesbury and High Wycombe, both in Buck-

inghamshire. The Royal Bank of Scotland used to have three. But two — in central London, and Fulwood, Lancashire — closed, owing to lack of demand and traffic problems. A third, at Leven, Fife, is still open.

The Midland has never operated drive-ins, dismissing them as "rather gimmicky". Instead, in addition to its First Direct telebanking arm, it operates "drive-outs", five mobile banks that serve 79 villages a week in Cornwall, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire.

The vehicles, each weighing about 7½ tonnes, are operated by three staff. Alongside the conventional tills, there is a counselling area for customers with more complicated requirements.

Royal Bank of Scotland operates 18 mobile banks, newly equipped with cash machines — and, in Scotland, a banking service that island flights. This succeeded a sailing cutter, skippered by "Britain's only bank manager with a peaked cap".

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Trust is back again in small firms

Small is beautiful — and it's back with a vengeance. That, at least, is the verdict of two investment groups that this week brought out smaller companies funds which will seek out the corporate stars of tomorrow.

Singer & Friedlander's UK Emerging Leaders fund is launched today. The fund has a minimum investment of £1,000 and the shares are due to start trading in London and Dublin on November 7.

Singer & Friedlander has already caused a stir by appointing Terry Smith, one of the City's best-known investment analysts, to lead the fund's advisers.

Mr Smith is a partner of Collins Stewart, the stockbroking arm of Singer & Friedlander. He admits that, after the future over his best-selling *Accounting for Growth*, book he is often regarded as a analyst who has concentrated on large companies. But, he

Robert Miller highlights a resurgence in smaller company funds

says: "I have followed smaller companies for years."

As the British economy picks up, the potential for the smaller companies' sector to outperform the bigger players becomes even greater.

One success story is that of David Welch whose sugar-free sweets innovation was made possible through the Entrust Business Growth Programme, financed by Tyneside Tec.

Generally speaking, Mr Smith says: "Between 1988 and 1992 smaller companies had a terrible time. But in the past 18 months they have outper-

formed the FT-SE 100 index of the UK's top companies."

But Mr Smith admits that picking winners is difficult because the smaller the companies, the harder it is to find in-depth research on them. He says, however: "The most important thing for investors to know is that we think it is more critical to avoid the losers. If they go under, they tend to lose 90 per cent to 100 per cent of their money. We are not bothered about picking fashionable sectors. We will pick each company on its individual merits."

To give investors a better understanding of smaller companies, Singer & Friedlander is giving away free copies of the Department of Trade & Industry's 60-page *Small Firms in Britain Report 1994*.

The other smaller companies newcomer is the product of Tilney, the stockbroking firm. Tilney has chosen to launch a UK Smaller Com-



David Welch tasted his initial business success under the wing of Tyneside Tec

panies Trust, with a minimum investment of £500, to mark its debut in the unit trust business. The newcomer will invest in the bottom 10 per cent of the UK equity market by market capitalisation.

Jeremy McEntyre, the trust's manager, says: "Our research base in the North of England gives us a particular advantage against competing managers in the leading locations of London and Edinburgh. We have discovered

that, because there is less research coverage, there is more opportunity to find undervalued stocks."

Smaller companies will also feature strongly in the new PC Aaron Master Portfolio Trust, launched this week by the David Aaron Partnership, a firm of independent financial advisers. This will invest in some 15 unit trusts run by other groups. It is expected to take in a number of smaller companies trusts, including

Schroder Japan Smaller Companies and Hypo F&C US Smaller Companies. The firm offers a 20-minute video on the new trust, which costs £3.75 in Weekend Money readers, compared with the normal £7.50. Investors who put funds in the trust will have their purchase price refunded.

Singer & Friedlander: 0500 626226.
Tilney & Co: 051 471 4131.
David A Aaron: 0908 281544.

HOW TO BE AN ANGEL

YOU can now become a business angel and get a tax break. In last November's Budget, the Government borrowed the angels principle in a term associated with individuals who back theatrical productions with their own money) and wrapped it up with tax concessions to launch the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS). This was the replacement for Business Expansion Schemes. The EIS offers investors tax relief on sums put into certain types of unquoted companies, up to an investment limit of £100,000 in each tax year.

The scheme covers most kinds of unquoted companies, including those in manufacturing, services, construction, retailing and wholesale distribution. They can raise up to £1 million, but the money must be used to finance a business carried on wholly or mainly in the UK.

However, backing a single venture is much riskier than investing in unit or investment trusts, which spread your money between a wide range of companies.

Tax relief on EIS investments is at the lower 20 per cent rate of income tax. To qualify, you must hold the shares for at least five years, unless the company is

wound up for genuine commercial reasons. If the shares are held for the full term, capital gains tax is not normally levied on profits.

If the sale of the shares gives rise to a loss, you can either deduct that loss, minus income tax relief already given, from taxable income, provided you make the claim within two years — or set the loss against chargeable gains for CGT purposes.

The minimum EIS investment under Inland Revenue rules is £500. However, it cannot be your own company. The rules say that you are "connected", or ineligible for tax relief, if, at any time in the qualifying term:

■ You or any associates, such as close relatives or business partners, are employed by the company or any of its subsidiaries.

■ You are a director of it and are entitled to any kind of payment.

There are exceptions. For instance, you may receive dividends or similar distributions, or payment for supplying goods.

A Revenue booklet, *The Enterprise Investment Scheme*, is free from tax offices or by writing to the Company Tax Division, West Wing, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2.

VENTURE CAPITAL TRUSTS

THE alternative to mainstream unit or investment trusts specialising in smaller companies is a venture, or development capital investment trust. According to the Association of Investment Trust Companies, there are about 27 trusts that qualify for this sector.

Unlike unit trusts, which are restricted in the number and type of unquoted companies in which they can invest, there are no such restrictions on investment trusts.

Among the best-known venture capital investment trust managers are Electra, Murray Johnstone, Foreign & Colonial, Ivory & Stone and Kleinwort Benson.

A number of these trusts offer low-cost monthly savings schemes, starting at about £50, as an alternative

to putting in a lump sum. The latest addition to the list is 3i, whose shares were floated on the stock market this summer. The managers of 3i are planning to introduce a savings scheme in the near future.

These schemes provide a perfect solution for investors who want to add a little spice to their portfolio but do not want to commit too much money.

Next year, as part of the Government's plans to raise even more funds for start-up businesses from the private sector, a new breed of venture capital trusts will be available.

They will invest almost exclusively in unquoted companies and investors will be given special tax breaks by the Inland Revenue to invest in them.

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I would welcome information on The Equitable's Free-Standing AVC plans. ☐ TMVA1A

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms): _____

ADDRESS: _____

Schroders. Who better in Japan?

As an experienced investor, you are probably aware that the Japanese stockmarket has only recently begun to rise. In fact, the Nikkei 225 is currently trading at just over half the level of its all time high in 1989*.

We believe this is an ideal time to invest. As signs of economic recovery become ever more apparent, so the confidence of domestic and foreign investors grows. It is our opinion that their money will cause Japan's market rally to accelerate, producing the potential for exciting returns.

But who can you trust with your Japanese investments?

Schroders have over £4 billion invested in Japanese equities on behalf of those who already know about our expertise. £800 million is invested in our Japanese unit trusts. Little wonder, when our funds in Japan achieve such excellent investment performance. Take our Tokyo Fund, first in its sector since launch in February 1981; and our Japanese Smaller

Companies Fund, the top fund in its sector over 5, 7 and 10 years**.

Who should you trust? Who better than Schroders?

For more information on our view of Japan's economic recovery and details of the Schroder Japanese unit trusts available, just return the coupon or call us free on:

0800 002 000

To: Schroder Unit Trusts Limited, 00740

FREEPOST, London EC4B 4AX

Please send me my free information pack on Schroders' range of Japanese Unit Trusts.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. No. _____

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Issued by Schroder Unit Trusts Limited, a member of IMRO, LAUTRO and AUTIF.

*Nikkei 225 Stock Average Index 19,751.55 at 05/10/94. All time high 38,915.87 at 29/1/89. **Microcap offer to bid with net income reinvested to 03/10/94. Tokyo Fund from 02/03/81, 1/11 and from 01/08/89, 9/66. Japanese Smaller Companies Fund from 01/02/84, 1/69, 1/55 and 1/33 respectively.

Schroders
Schroder Investment Management

Lenders get tough with claimants

The building society has now added the £1,700 on to the rest of the outstanding debt. But the DSS will pay interest only on the original debt.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future returns. The price of units can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested.

APPLICANTS MUST BE AGED 18 OR OVER, AND AGREE TO PAY THEIR KALAMUNGAN OR AT LEAST 10% INTO THEIR ACCOUNT EACH MONTH. APPLICATIONS AND ISSUING OF THE 2100 CHECKS GUARANTEE CARD ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS. OVERDRAFT FACILITIES ARE SUBJECT TO AN APPRAISAL OF YOUR FINANCIAL POSITION. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. A CUSTOMER WITH AN ALLIANCE ACCOUNT WILL BE A DEPOSITOR WITH THE SOCIETY. ALLIANCE AND LIKENESS BUILDING SOCIETY, HOVE ADMINISTRATION, HOVE PARK, HOVE, EAST SUSSEX BN3 7AZ JULY 1991.

ALLIANCE & LIKENESS BUILDING SOCIETY

هكذا من الأصل

Lenders, desperate to win business, have introduced a wide range of offers, says Sara McConnell

Courted with cashbacks



An all-too familiar sight in the current buyers' market

If you are planning to take out a mortgage before the end of the year, you can count on being courted with discounts, cashbacks and fixed rates by lenders desperate to attract buyers who will complete by Christmas.

It is still a buyers' market. The monthly house price indices published by both the Halifax and Nationwide building societies this week indicate that the housing market remains in the doldrums. But the cost of loans has risen slightly after last month's base rate rise. New fixed rates are higher, reflecting the higher cost to lenders of buying fixed-rate funds in the money markets. Discounted rates are also increasing. To offset this, lenders are offering cashbacks and reductions on initial fees to dull the pain of buying.

■ **Birmingham Midshires** has a "fee-free" discount mortgage. It will refund the standard valuation fee of £125 in full when you complete. There is no arrangement fee, which could save borrowers several hundred pounds. If borrowers choose a solicitor for their conveyancing from an approved panel, it will waive the

fee. If borrowers want to choose their own solicitor, Birmingham Midshires will pay you £200 on completion. On top of this, the society is offering a 1.5 per cent discount off its standard variable rate, currently 8.15 per cent, until November 1, 1997. This cuts the rate to 6.65 per cent. But if rates rise, the discounted rate follows.

■ **Yorkshire Building Society** is guaranteeing not to put up its discounted rate before June 1995 even if the variable mortgage rate rises. This will protect borrowers from the effect of further base rate rises for a year. It is offering a 4 per cent discount on its standard variable rate of 8.14 per cent for one year, or a 1.35 per cent discount for three years. This gives borrowers a guaranteed rate of 4.14 per cent, or 6.79 per cent until next June. There is a £50 arrangement fee.

Borrowers may also choose to fix rates over one, two and three years. The cost of the three-year fix, to October 1997, has risen from 7.2 per cent to 7.95 per cent. The society also has a range of more expensive fixed-rate loans for borrowers who want to take up an offer of

£400 cashback on completion. The three-year rate, with cashback, is 8.35 per cent.

■ **Barclays Bank** has four new fixed rates, all higher than its previous ones. Existing borrowers moving house, or moving their mortgages to Barclays, are offered a fixed rate of 8.45 per cent until January 1, 1997. If they take buildings and contents cover with Barclays, the rate is reduced to 7.99 per cent. Previously, the bank had a fixed rate of 6.99 per cent until January 1997. Customers remortgaging can fix their rate at 8.1 per cent until February 1996, or 8.99 per cent until February 1997.

■ **Royal Bank of Scotland** has launched what it claims is the first "continuous cashback" mortgage in the country. It will pay the borrower the equivalent of the first regular mortgage payment, up to a £1,000 limit, each year during the life of the mortgage. On a £50,000 mortgage, this continuous cashback would be worth just over £300 in the first year, amounting to £7,558 over 25 years.

Centralised lenders are back — but can you trust them?

Karen Murray
says borrowers must look at a lender's track record

After a respite from the mortgage market, some of the centralised lenders have started lending again. National Home Loans and First Mortgage Securities have already taken the plunge. In January, they will be joined by Mortgage Trust.

Centralised lenders rely on funding from the City. They have lower overheads because they do not have a branch network and sell through other parties such as mortgage brokers, insurance companies and estate agents.

Some have had a poor press. They have been in and out of the mortgage market, left borrowers stranded on high rates and a number are for sale. However, they are not all bad and if you check them out they can be more flexible, innovative and cheaper. They offer mortgages only and compulsory insurance is not a prerequisite for a discounted mortgage. They usually have lower or no redemption fees and several offer loyalty bonuses for good payers.

But do not be tempted by cheap rates: look for track

launch of Homeloans Direct. Its variable rate is a competitive 7.95 per cent when building society rates average just over 8 per cent and it has a fixed rate of 7.99 per cent for three years. To help you to pay off the mortgage more quickly, it has an index-linked repayment plan where the payment rises with inflation.

First Mortgage Securities was relaunched in February after a management buyout and its current rate is 6.75 per cent. But there is a catch. Its limit on loans is £150,000 and you must be a second-time buyer with a 25 per cent deposit. If you always pay on time, it will give you a loyalty bonus every five years to cut the capital outstanding.

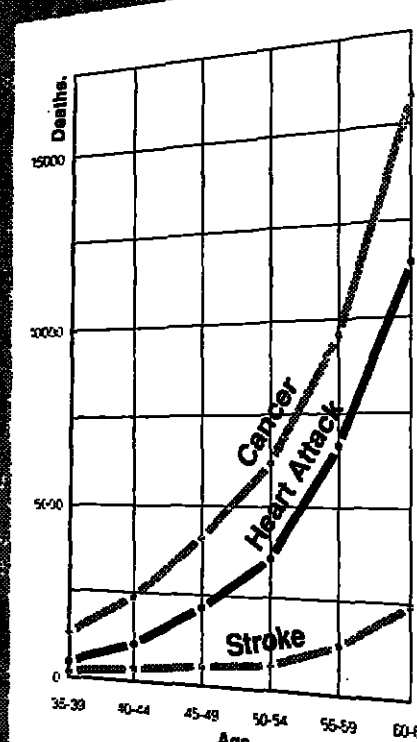
A telephone mortgage service has been launched by First Mortgage Securities which will give loan approval in ten to 15 minutes subject to references and valuations.

UCB's Enterprise mortgage is for the self-employed who are unable to provide accounts. Loans are up to 75 per cent and the current rate is 6.99 per cent fixed for one year.

record. How do their rates compare with other lenders' over the long term? Who is the parent company? How long have they been in the market and has it been continuous? Generally, those with backing from a large parent, such as Citibank Mortgage, owned by Citibank, and UCB, a subsidiary of Compagnie Bancaire, a French bank, are in a stronger position because they have access to the owner's treasury operation. For example, The Mortgage Business, part of the Bank of Scotland group, has always been close to the Halifax's rate.

After a gap of three years, National Home Loans has returned to the market with the

Death begins at 40.



Did your father aim to change the family car at around 30,000 miles? People used to think that this was when things started to go wrong. Nowadays, cars tend to be a lot more reliable. What about ourselves?

For us, the figures are quite clear. Things start to go wrong at about 40. That's when the incidence of cancer, heart attack and stroke begins to climb.

Thanks to modern medicine, even serious illnesses like these can often be treated. You're likely to be passing your MOT test for years to come. It's the effect on your income that could well be terminal.

COUNTING THE COST.

One in seven 40-year olds will suffer a heart attack or cancer before the age of 60. If you're one of them, what will happen when you recover?

You may well need to find a less stressful job. You'll have to take things easy. You'll need to build a new life for yourself and your family — doing something different, maybe even living somewhere else.

You need money to make changes like that. It's not just a question of income — you need

capital, not least to pay off your mortgage.

There is a kind of insurance which provides exactly this. Critical illness insurance pays out a guaranteed cash sum when a serious illness is diagnosed.

It has two main drawbacks. First, it has tended to be expensive — for the good, if rather depressing, reason that a lot of people need to make claims on it. And second, it is not very well understood.

At Scottish Amicable European, we've solved both of these problems. Our new Flexible Critical Illness Plan makes cover more affordable, because it uses the tax advantages of our European base to keep premiums well below average — up to 25% lower, in some cases.

And to help you understand the benefits more fully, we have produced a free Guide to Critical Illness, which explains how the insurance works and how it fits in with your overall financial planning.

For your free copy of our useful guide, get in touch now. Talk to your financial adviser, return the coupon or call us, free, on the number below.

For your free Scottish Amicable European "Guide to Critical Illness," simply dial 100 and ask for **FREEPHONE AMICABLE**. Or post the coupon to: Scottish Amicable, FREEPOST, Glasgow G2 7BR.

Do you currently have a financial adviser? Yes/No (delete as appropriate).

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Initials _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Occupation _____ Marital Status _____

No. of children _____ (This)

No salesmen will call. However, the details you are being asked to supply may be used to provide you with details of the services which Scottish Amicable and its subsidiaries offer. Please tick here if you do not wish to receive this information. ☐ We will not pass your name on to any unconnected organisation.

Scottish Amicable European

The Flexible Critical Illness Plan

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- Interest payable annually, monthly or at maturity.
- Monthly interest 8.70% gross p.a.
- Access to your money in years 2 and 3 subject to a penalty.

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COVENTRY
BUILDING SOCIETY
Economic House, PO Box 8, High Street, Coventry CV1 9QN

YOU CAN COUNT
ON THE COVENTRY

Coventry Building Society is one of the country's top 20 building societies. The Society, which is authorised by the Building Societies Commission, has assets exceeding £1 billion, capital of £100 million and over 100 branches throughout the Midlands. The Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and the Association of British Building Societies. It is a member of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Financial Markets Foundation for Children (FMC). The Society is a member of the Building Societies Association (BSA) and the Association of British Building Societies (ABBS). The Society is a member of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Financial Markets Foundation for Children (FMC). The Society is a member of the Building Societies Association (BSA) and the Association of British Building Societies (ABBS).

CHART SHOWS DEATHS IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1992. SOURCE: OPCS. SCOTTISH AMICABLE EUROPEAN IS THE MARKETING NAME OF SCOTTISH AMICABLE INTERNATIONAL ASSURANCE PLC. REGISTRATION NO. 209958 IRELAND. WHOSE REGISTERED OFFICE AND HEAD OFFICE IS AT DUNDALK HOUSE, 12 LOWER LEESON STREET, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND. A MEMBER OF LAITRO FOR THE PURPOSES OF MARKETING LIFE ASSURANCE AND INVESTMENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. HOLDERS OF POLICIES ISSUED BY THE COMPANY WILL NOT BE PROTECTED BY THE POLICYHOLDERS PROTECTION ACT 1975 IF THE COMPANY SHOULD BECOME UNABLE TO MEET ITS LIABILITIES TO THEM. SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, SCOTTISH AMICABLE PENSIONS INVESTMENTS, SCOTTISH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS AND SCOTTISH AMICABLE INTERNATIONAL ASSURANCE PLC FORM A MARKETING GROUP. THE VALUE OF THE UNDERLYING INVESTMENT MAY FLUCTUATE AND IS NOT GUARANTEED.

More choice for the small shareholder

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Journal of Management Studies, 39(6), 708-724

Shares make modest gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

TOBACCO

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

OILS, GAS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

INDEX-INDEX

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

UNDATED

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
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33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5

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33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
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33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
33.5	33.0	ABN-AMRO	33.5	4.5	12.5
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Eves drops England hint

Probyn returns as Wasps try to end Bath's home record

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

South Africa will name their tour party to Britain tomorrow, after the first international against Argentina in Port Elizabeth. The two countries met twice a year ago when the Argentinians, in Buenos Aires, lost 29-26 and 52-23, the second game memorable for the 22-point debut at full back of Johnson, who resumes the

Second edition

Second division
 Ballymena v Univ College Dublin (2.30)
 Bective Rangers v Bangor (2.30)
 Malone v Terenure Coll (2.30)
 Old Belvedere v Greystones (2.30) ...
 Old Crescent v Dolphin (2.30)
 Under 21-tournament
 Scolland v Ireland
 (at Richmond, 4.30)

HOCKEY
 NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Pre-

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND

LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn v North Notts, Harbourne v Hampton v Arden, Khalsa v Lichfield, Nottingham v Bolser, Olton and West Warwickshire v Leicester Westleigh

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier league: Ashford v Winchester, Chichester v Gore Court, High Wycombe v Fareham, Lewes v Cry of Portsmouth, Lyons v Dulwich, Old Walsourians v Maidenhead, Old Whitgiftians v Anthonians, Staines v Spencer Wimbledon v Oxford Hawks, Woking v Old Kingstonians Regionals: Kent/Sussex, Borehole v Blackheath Crawley v Bognor, Heme Bay v Gravesend

Honsham v Tunbridge Wells, Marden
Russers v Bewseyheath, Middleton v Bognor
Mid Sussex v Sevenoaks; Old
Bordenians v Beckenham Old
Holcombians v Tuttle Hill, Old
Williamsons v Greenwich
Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Merton
Bournemouth v Chesham, Camberley v
Oxley, Epsom v Petersfield, Old Edwards-
ons v London University; Old Mid-
Whithams v Southampton Tautonians.
Orsholt v Fleet Priory v Lantbury Purvey v
Humble Old Boys, Weybridge Hawks v
Basingstoke Midds/Berks/Bucks and

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bracknell v Balsam Leicestershire; Higham v Cilton; Ipswich v First Personnel Sutton Coldfield Slough v Cheshamford. First division: Brackford Swinbank v Ealing Doncaster v Canterbury, Ermouch v Bluehans, Trojans v Wimbledon Second Division.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Erith v London (8.0), Derby v Chester (8.0), Hemel v Leopards (7.30), Thames Valley v Manchester (8.0), Wytham v Sunderland (8.0)

BOWLS: Church world singles qualifiers (Milton Mombay), Causeway Coast Macrae (Ballydoonagh, Malinbeg)

WYCHLING: North of England (National Cycling Centre, Manchester)
GOLF: Alfred Dunhill Cup (St Andrews)
LACROSSE: Sunbelt Friendsly Society: North of England League: First Division: Cheade v Goldmans and Eccles
 A: Timperley v Old Walsmans, Esher v
 Stealers v Sale; Ashion v Major Heaton
 Marley v Poynton.
SQUASH: World women's open championship (St Peter Port, Guernsey)
VOLLEYBALL: Men: First division: Wexham

Polonia Ealing Whitefield v Newcastle
Staffs Warwick Rovers v Camden Azusa
Reebok Liverpool City v Team Magma
Matory Lewisham

Australia well placed after enforcing follow-on in second Test

McDermott and Fleming expose feeble Pakistan

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN RAWALPINDI

IMAGINE a beast with 11 arms and one head, which it sheds each year, to be replaced by another. Roused, the beast is capable of anger. Left to graze, it is pitifully submissive. Nobody can predict its behaviour or judge its moods accurately. Such a beast exists: it is called the Pakistan cricket team.

It is virtually impossible to make any sense of its variations of performance. It appeared to be seriously wounded here yesterday as the Australians enforced the follow-on after taking a lead of 261. The touring team start the fourth day of this second Test match overwhelmed by their own heavy favourites to win it and they thoroughly deserve it.

If there is anything more humiliating than following on, it is being instructed to do so after you have won the toss. Salim Malik's judgment looked foolish on the first morning and it does not look any better now. Only once before have Pakistan followed on in their own country, against West Indies in 1958. At this rate the beast will sprout another head before long.

As an example of a complete shambles, Pakistan's first innings is hard to match. They passed 100 in the 23rd over with one wicket down yet they were bowled out for just 260 on a benign pitch. Aamir Sohail alone scored more than 30. No fewer than six players contributed to their departure through numbskull batting. Resolution there was none. This was a hopeless effort.

The Australians deserve every commendation. They stuck at their task, kept their heads up and would have improved their day in Pakistan's second innings had Warner not dropped Aamir at

deep square leg. It was not one of Warner's better days, although he did hold a superb catch at gully to dismiss Mushtaq.

That catch gave McDermott a fourth wicket and he had earned them all. There were also four for Damien Fleming in his first Test and it would have been five if Warner had held a difficult chance of Salim. Mark Taylor juggled his bowlers effectively and the

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 521 for 9 dec (M J Slater 110, S P Waugh 88, M Bevan 70, M A Taylor 23, M G Hughes 18, I A Healy 28).
PAKISTAN: First Innings
Saeed Anwar c S P Waugh b McDermott 15
Aamir Sohail b Fleming 80
Zahid Fazal b Fleming 10
Salim Malik b McDermott 33
Aamir Malik b McDermott 11
Iftikhar Ahmed b McDermott 14
Rashid Latif c Slater b Fleming 18
Wasim Akram not out 19
Mushtaq Ahmed c Warner b McDermott 9
Wasim Younis b Fleming 13
Mushtaq Khan not out 12
Extras (to 10, to 7, no 2) 19
Total 260
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-90, 3-119, 4-152, 5-155, 6-189, 7-188, 8-189, 9-260
SCORING: McDermott 22-74, Fleming 22-75, Warner 21-48, Healy 11-2, 36-0

Second Innings
Saeed Anwar not out 11
Aamir Sohail not out 9
Extras (to 6) 8
Total (no wkt) 28
SCORING: McDermott 4-1-6-0, Fleming 2-1-2-4, Anwar 2-0-2-0
Umpires: A E Leebenberg (South Africa) and Mahboob Shah (Pakistan)

fielders always looked alert. In terms of attitude — an over-used word but in this case an apt one — the teams could not be further apart.

Fleming's figures show beyond argument that he passed his test of temperament. There is something of Steve Watkin in his splay-footed approach and he bowls at a similar pace with a high arm, achieving movement both ways through

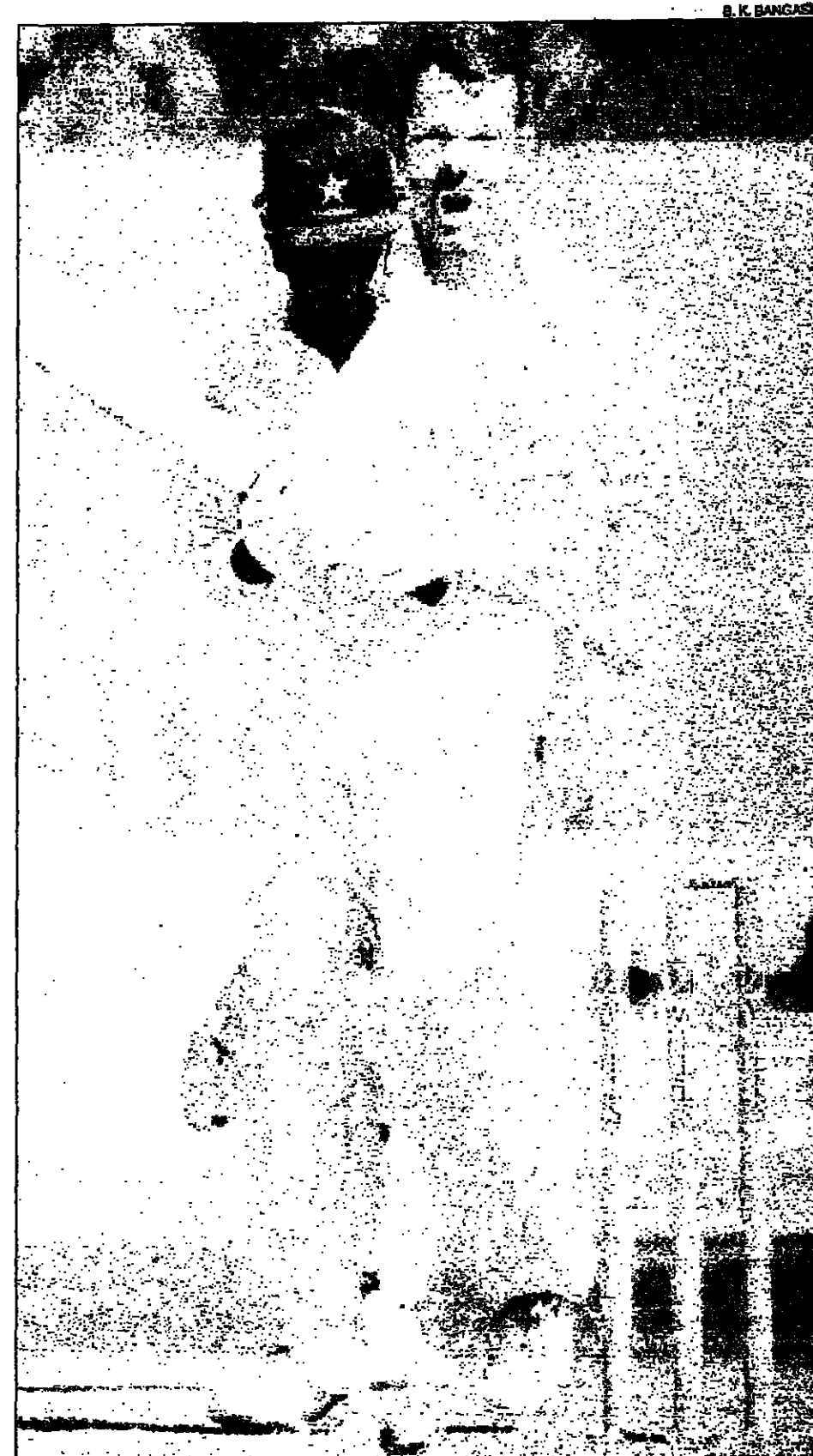
the air. His first Test wicket was Zahid Fazal. His second, also bowled, was more important in the context of this innings. Aamir made 80 breathless runs from 82 balls, and was eager for more, when he attacked a ball that swung past his bat to uproot the off stump.

It was reckless batting by an opener who is nothing if not a chancer. Aamir has a wide range of strokes but his reluctance to move his feet always gives the bowler a chance. At 119 for two, the game was even-stevens. Aamir's aberration established the indiscriminate tone that others were happy to ape.

Australia probably thought they had to hit the stumps to get anyone out. Mahboob Shah refused five appeals for leg-before and when he did give Aamir Malik out, it seemed a compensatory decision for turning McDermott down the over before. The umpire put his finger up again for Waqar later in the innings but that was not a brave act.

In fact, there was no real moral courage. Salim played on to McDermott, trying to force, in a winning cause, last Sunday, held his bat out. Rashid's wicket belonged to Slater, who made ground swiftly from extra cover to scoop a wonderful low catch at full stretch, diving forward — the most difficult sort of all.

Nothing denoted the utter lack of understanding in the Pakistan team as much as the last wicket. Mohsin was run out by Steve Waugh's long throw from mid-wicket after he got his signals crossed with Wasim, who registered his disgust in an emphatic manner.



Salim, the Pakistan captain, surveys the damage after being bowled by McDermott

Rivals hope to tempt Herbert from Lotus

AFTER all the speculation surrounding David Coulthard's possible move to another motor racing team for the last three races of the Formula One season, attention switched yesterday to the likelihood that Johnny Herbert, the highly regarded Lotus driver, may be persuaded to switch to the European, Japanese and Australian Grand Prix (Olivier Holt writes). McLaren and Benetton have made previous efforts to sign Herbert, who has grown gradually disillusioned with Lotus after a series of poor performances. Those approaches have been rejected by Peter Collins, the team's managing director, but Lotus, who are beset by financial problems, went into administration a fortnight ago and their administrator may be more receptive to a deal if he has the power to sanction the arrangement. Benetton and McLaren are again thought to be the interested parties.

Manchester's first event

CRICKET: Surrey have signed Nadeem Shahid, the Essex batsman, on a two-year contract. Shahid, 25, who had a disappointing summer, scored 2,562 runs for Essex, having made his debut in 1989. Jeremy Batty, the Yorkshire off spinner, who made only three senior appearances last season, is moving to Somerset.

Changing counties

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Tigers continue to fight

BASKETBALL: Thames Valley Tigers will continue to take on some of the best clubs on the Continent despite their elimination from the European championship on Thursday. After losing 160-138 over two legs to Buckler Bologna, the Tigers now enter the European Cup, an event for clubs knocked out in the early rounds of the championships.

Aces high for Becker

TENNIS: Boris Becker unleashed 21 aces in 12 service games to overpower Jonathan Stark, the unseeded American, 7-6, 6-3 and reach the semi-finals of the Australian indoor championships in Sydney yesterday. □ Nottingham will host a pre-Wimbledon men's grass-court event next year, the Lawn Tennis Association has confirmed.

India tour goes ahead

CRICKET: The West Indies board of control yesterday gave its approval for the tour of India to go ahead after a week's delay because of the pneumonic plague epidemic there. The original itinerary has been revised, reducing the number of one-day internationals against India from six to five, but the rest of the schedule remains unaltered.

Pritchard-Gordon lands amateurs' title

BY RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Pritchard-Gordon yesterday added a new twist to the age-old Corinthian principle that taking part matters more than winning when he collected the Bollinger Champagne Challenge for gentlemen riders, despite finishing out of the frame in the final race of the series at Ascot.

The 19-year-old son of Gavin Pritchard-Gordon, the recently retired Newmarket trainer, could do no better than fourth on Acting Brave, behind the Marlin Pipe-trained Seasonal Splendour, but, with his nearest rivals failing to win, he deservedly retained his lead in the competition.

Pritchard-Gordon had led virtually from the start of the season after winning on Daring King, trained by his father, at Folkestone in April. "Dad set me up at the beginning of the season with a winner, a second and a fourth and I was determined to really go for it," he said.

The only way he could have lost the series yesterday was if Andrew Balding, son of the Kingsclere trainer, Ian, had won on Hill Of Dreams, which he ultimately faded into fifth place. They were both at Radley, where they each ran the school's racing club, and are now both at Cirencester Agricultural College on a business and equine studies course.

"I saw Andrew leading before

turning into the straight and I feared the worst but in the end it worked out," Pritchard-Gordon said. "What a day. I am absolutely thrilled."

Paddy, whose brother, Rupert, is an assistant to Criquelette Head in France, is keen to get a job in racing when he leaves college, although he is undecided whether to become a trainer.

"Training has crossed my mind and one of the reasons for going to Cirencester is to think about it. I certainly want to do something in the racing industry."

One thing is sure. He will not lack for advice. Apart from his mother and father, who are both closely involved with the sport, his uncle, Grant Pritchard-Gordon, is racing manager

to Khaled Abdulla, owner of the horse he rode yesterday.

Bollinger Champagne confirmed it would continue with the series for gentlemen amateur riders in 1995 with the final again being staged at Ascot next October. "The series seems to have struck the right note and we are thrilled with it," Anthony Mallaby, the managing director, said. "We are delighted to continue in 1995."

□ Sir Nicholas Beaumont ends a 30-year association with Ascot racecourse when he officiates for the last time today. The clerk of the course since 1969, he is retiring to return to his native North Essex, where he is to become the director of racing at Newcastle racecourse.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Ascot

Going: good to firm

2.00 (1m 4f) 1. SEASONAL SPLENDOR (M J Dalton, 5-1) 2. Mearns To Be (M J Dalton, 7-1) 3. Gladstone (M J Dalton, 10-1) 4. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 5. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 6. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 7. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 8. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 9. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 10. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1)

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2.55 (1m 4f) 1. SEASONAL SPLENDOR (M J Dalton, 5-1) 2. Mearns To Be (M J Dalton, 7-1) 3. Gladstone (M J Dalton, 10-1) 4. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 5. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 6. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 7. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 8. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 9. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 10. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1)

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4.00 (1m 4f) 1. SEASONAL SPLENDOR (M J Dalton, 5-1) 2. Mearns To Be (M J Dalton, 7-1) 3. Gladstone (M J Dalton, 10-1) 4. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 5. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 6. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 7. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 8. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 9. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1) 10. Daring King (M J Dalton, 10-1)

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11

Stoute keeps championship in sight

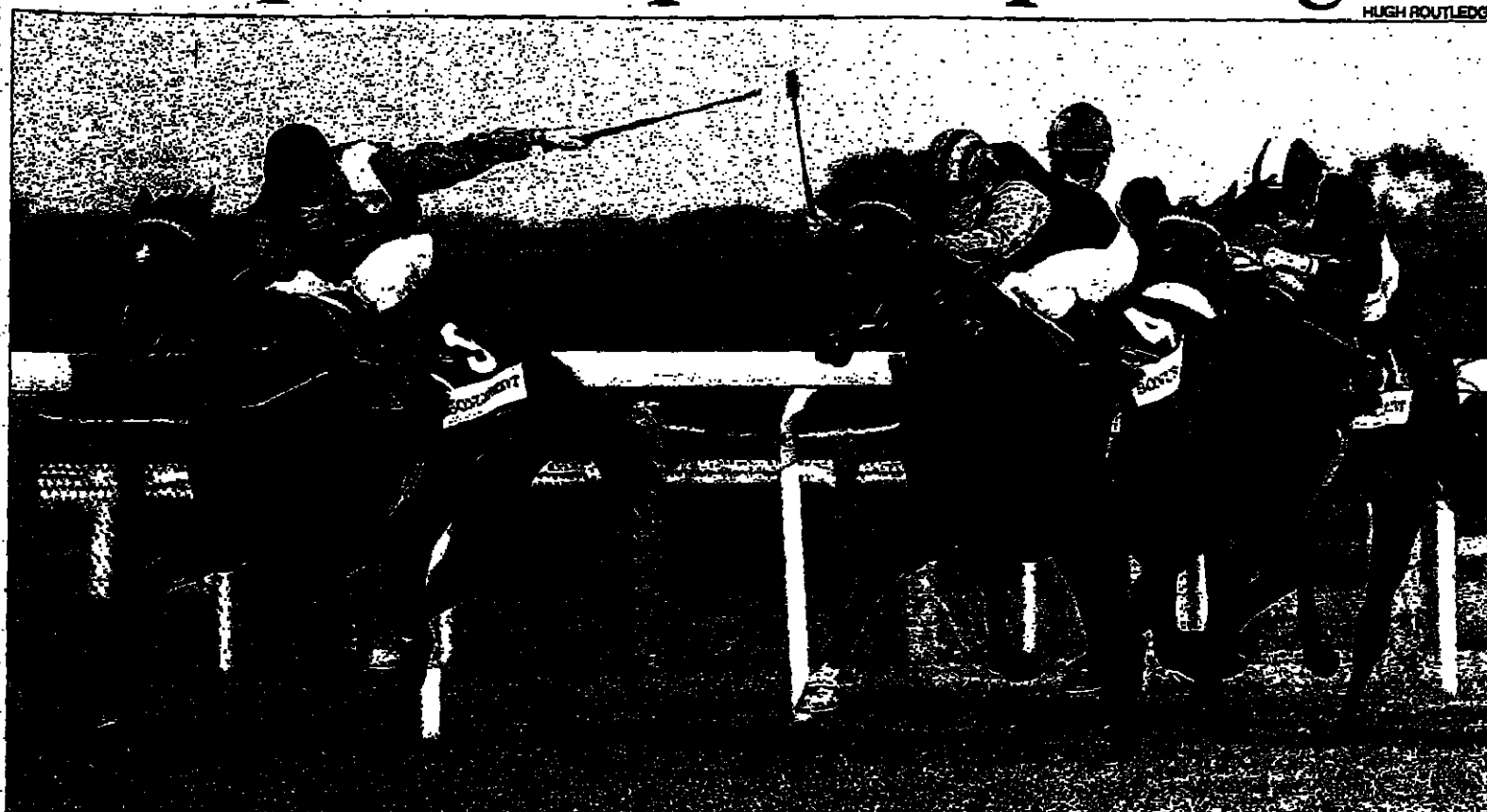
BY JULIAN MUSCART

THIS has been a banner season for Michael Stoute, who leads the race for the trainers' championship. Only a late flurry of valuable wins from his closest pursuers can unseat Stoute, who achieved his one hundredth winner of the term when Blushing Flame landed the Tankerville Stakes at Ascot yesterday.

It was Stoute's first century since he sent out 116 winners five years ago, and there could have been no more appropriate silks to hoist the total than those of Cheveley Park Stud. The Newmarket concern, of which Stoute is a director, has itself enjoyed its finest season to date, and few owners deserve success as do David and Patricia Thompson, the owners of Cheveley Park.

Stoute, who will be represented by Rousay at the Breeders' Cup meeting in Kentucky next month, can anticipate another memorable time of it next term. His stable is littered with two-year-olds of great talent and he looks to hold his traditional strong hand for the 1,000 Guineas in Red Carnation and Gay Gallant.

John Dunlop, who holds an outside chance of depriving Stoute of the championship, made a small inroad into the deficit when Sovinista's late challenge narrowly earned her the October Stakes at the expense of Mareha. If Michael Roberts, who rode Sovinista, timed his challenge to perfection, Gavin Fitchard-Gordon may secretly wish he had retained his trainer's licence a little longer.



Sovinista, ridden by Roberts, launches a decisive challenge to beat Mareha, left, in the Bonusprint October Stakes at Ascot yesterday

Sovinista was in Pritchard-Gordon's care until he dispersed his stable at the end of August, since when Sovinista has won two listed races for Dunlop. She is improving fast, her intended raid on Italy could easily see her graduate to group-race winner.

A colt with a future is Kayrawan, a facile winner of the Tripleprint Maiden Stakes from three unraced opponents. It is a mystery why one of the most valuable juvenile maidens was so badly supported, but Tom Jones, who trains Kayrawan, will have been grateful for this easy opportunity. Smith brought with him encouraging news about the flying mare, who has taken her Paris exertions well and is 'walking around the yard with a swagger'.

Lochsong's assault on the

Breeders' Cup Sprint next month will see the Kentucky racing authorities accord her similar treatment to that permitted by the French. There will be no parades, and Smith headed off the possibility of an outlying pony upsetting his horse when he said: 'She is often led up to the gallops by another horse and doesn't mind it at all.'

The British Horseracing Board joined with Weatherbys to stage the inaugural Sponsorship Forum at Ascot. Over 70 delegates representing 120 companies heard the merits of backing races from existing sponsors like Bernard Gower, whose firm, Madagans, supports the Guinness fixture at Newmarket. Further forums are planned.

Lochsong's assault on the

Rock Symphony favoured by trip

ASCOT BCCI

1.40: Presenting gets the vote, although his inexperience could be his undoing in this small field. He took time to find his stride at Doncaster but has more scope than his closely-matched opponents. Dahik looks a better forecast bet than Brave Revival.

2.10: Although this faster ground can enable Mistletoe to get closer to Little Hammer, Luca, Curran's filly should confirm the placings of their recent encounter here. Milly Ha Ha, third in that race, looks safely held.

2.40: Many of these are poised to strike winning form, among them Princess Oberon, Cradle Days and Allthrundering. With plenty of pace on the far side, a high draw looks advantageous; one so positioned is Insider Trader, well fancied at Newmarket last week in the race marred by stalls failure. Despite racing on his own, he showed up well and can gain compensation. Ishiyak should cope with this shorter trip but perhaps not with the faster ground.

YORK C4

3.15: Harding, Master Bevelled, Ever So Lyrical and Schnozzle are closely matched but the selection seems on the up. He forced on the upgrade. He forced on the upgrade. He forced on the upgrade.

JULIAN MUSCART

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This bet is a 50% bet on the York 4.5pm and the 5.15pm races.
If you win, you will receive a £20 bet on the York 4.5pm and the 5.15pm races.
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6 winners, Handicap, York 4.5pm, Live on CH4 TV.

BEST ODDS GUARANTEED
If you take our 'Early Bird' bet on the York 4.5pm and the 5.15pm races, we'll pay you the 5/1.

9 Albion 14
10 Be Warned 14
11 Highborn 14
12 Rock Symphony 14
13 Astrac 14
14 Benzo 14
15 Domula 14
16 Master of Passion 14
17 How's Yer Father 14
18 Palacegate Touch 14
19 Purple Fling 14

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THUNDERER

2.15 Teacher 3.45 Ginger Tree

2.45 Warkuske 4.15 How's Yer Father

3.15 Master Bevelled 4.45 Karinka

5.15 Tibbs

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 PUCK'S CASTLE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.15 BRANHAM MOOR HANDICAP

(22.25; 1m 51.94y) (10 runners)

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Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 PUCK'S CASTLE (nap).

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Saturday portrait: Colin Montgomerie by John Hopkins, golf correspondent

Warming to giant who plays like an angel but struggles for love

Many questions surround Colin Montgomerie. Just how good is he? How has he become so good so quickly? Why does he get into more scrapes than a Tory politician? Is he a Scot or merely a carpet-bagger? Is he as bad-tempered as he sometimes looks? Should he lose weight? Why can a man who plays golf like a saint still be regarded as a sinner?

Everyone knows that golf is a funny, paradoxical game. To get a golf ball up into the air you must hit down on it. To hit it further, you must swing more slowly. To hit a stationary golf ball is more difficult than hitting a moving hockey or tennis ball. Montgomerie fits perfectly into a sport apparently riddled with contradictions.

He is intelligent, articulate, well educated and a brilliant golfer, ranked eighth in the world. He is capable of winning major championships. Not the least of his advantages is that he has married a calm and sensible lady named Elaine, and she can handle him. All in all, now that Sandy Lyle appears to have gone into irreversible decline, Scots should be doing Highland flings at the pell-mell, upward dash of another of their own.

The reality is that all these encomiums do not amount to a hill of beans. Montgomerie just does not cut the mustard in the way that Sam Torrance and Lyle do. Many Scots regard him with little more affection than they do Elizabeth I or Margaret Thatcher.

As a golfer, Montgomerie has come on faster than Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam. He won the order of merit in 1993, only six full seasons after turning professional, and now he is poised to become the first man since Sandy Lyle in 1979 and 1980 to repeat the feat. He leads by £148,070 from Severiano Ballesteros. Although Ballesteros is undergoing an enormous revival and has climbed from 164th in the order of merit on May 1 to second, and José María Olazábal is only 69th behind Ballesteros, Montgomerie is favourite. Only two events remain.

So just how good can Montgomerie become? Can he match the achievements of Lyle, the best golfer to have emerged from Scotland since the War, if you accept that a man who was born in the Royal Salop Infirmary in Shrewsbury, and is as much a Shropshire Lad as the central figure of Housman's poem, can be called Scottish? Lyle's golden years, when he won the 1985 Open and the 1988 Masters and a host of other events besides, set a stern target for Montgomerie.

Yet Montgomerie should win one major championship and could win more. He is 20 yards longer now than he used to be because he is more confident, and he is as straight a hitter as there is. He has a deft short game, as so many big men have had down the

'Many Scots regard him with little more affection than they do Elizabeth I or Margaret Thatcher'

years, and he puts beautifully. Such is his confidence that he rarely practises. He is, as the French say, content in his skin, albeit that in some eyes there is rather too much of that skin.

His greatest ally may not be his clubs, nor his swing, nor his ability to turn three shots into two around the greens, nor roll in putt after putt, but his own self-belief. In short, he has enough game to compete around the world with Olazábal, Ernie Els and the other stars of the new generation for another ten years. But the question remains, will he?

And another thing: Why is it that such an intelligent and personable man, who is so delicate with a golf club, can be so clumsy and bad-tempered without it? Is it fair to suggest that he remains the gauche, grumpy figure that he was? An air of combustibility as strong as a magnetic field sur-

rounds the man. But it behoves those of us who have charted his misdemeanours, as well as his triumphs, to note that there are signs of a levelling in the barometric scale that is Montgomerie's fuse. At times this year, Montgomerie has discussed questions about his temper and his image with a smile on his face. This suggests he has begun the process that may eventually conclude with the banishment of the demons of bad manners and gracelessness that torment him from time to time.

All credit to him, after his disappointing performance in the play-off for the US Open in Pennsylvania last June, that he disarmed questioners with flashes of humour. At a time when he might have been forgiven for over-heating — it was, after all, well up in the 90s — he cooled a potentially difficult interrogation with a pun on the words hot-headed.

Another question: why is it that Montgomerie is respected while Sam Torrance, a fellow Scot, is loved? Torrance does not stand on ceremony. He is clearly a man of the people. He must be. He rolls his own cigarettes. He places his pencil behind his right ear, like a chippie's apprentice. He likes his beer, his "baccy", his snooker, his darts and his betting. His manner is as down to earth as a Highland farmer's, his voice as gravelly as Taggart's. He is a folk hero in his own country — even though he lives in Wentworth and votes Tory, for heaven's sake.

Among Scots, Montgomerie enjoys nothing like the same status. He has the air of a man with his eyes on distant, greater horizons. For Scots, there could be few more popular winners of the Open than Torrance, yet the reality is that Montgomerie, 31 last June, is much more likely to do so than Torrance, who was 41 last August. Is it that Torrance appears not to care — though he does — whereas Montgomerie appears to care too much, the unpardonable British sin? Or is it that Montgomerie, who was born in Glasgow, has chosen to live not just in England but in the London area, and that in



ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN

appearance, demeanour and dress he appears to be a toff, more English than Scottish?

Is it his middle-class background, his public school education? It has done Tony Blair no harm that he went to Fettes College in Edinburgh. Should Montgomerie's time at Strathallan, near Perth, really be held against him?

All Britain and Ireland, and not just England, rejoiced when Tony

Jacklin burst through to win the 1969 Open at Royal Lytham and the US Open 11 months later. Welsh and Irish golf followers — and a good many English, because they, too, regard him as one of their own — as well as Scots applauded Lyle's major championship victories. And the sight of Woosnam punching the air after holing the winning putt at Augusta in 1991 united us all.

In the aftermath of such deeds,

you wanted to embrace Lyle, Jacklin and Woosnam, to take them to the pub and buy them a beer. For these men you would do anything, including forgiving them a drink-driving conviction (Woosnam) and a fling with a waitress (Jacklin). There is no similar pent-up desire to hug Big Monty, take him to his local and ply him with drink, laughing at his stories far into the night. Why not? Why is it that Woosnam, who

was born in England and now lives in Jersey, has been taken to the bosom of every Welshman, while the Scotland-born and patriotic Montgomerie seems unable to capture the hearts and minds and support of those who hail from the home of golf?

So many questions, so few answers. But perhaps there are no answers. Montgomerie plays golf like an angel. One last question: Shall we leave it at that?

Defence the best form of attack for Wigan against Australians

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

CLUB against country is usually an uneven struggle, except when that club is Wigan and the bulk of the Great Britain team makes up the side. The televised encounter today against a virtual international-strength Australia, the hors-d'oeuvre for the main course at Wembley in two weeks, will give early warning of any shift in the power balance.

One Sydney commentator, revelling in the pounding Leeds took from the Australians in midweek, informed his listeners that English rugby league was down on its knees. The early evidence of two record scores and 100 points is that this eighteenth Kangaroo squad is another with the potential for greatness. However, raising the flag over the British body is a mite premature.

Wigan are unlikely to lie down as conveniently as Cumbria and Leeds. As defence is undoubtedly the best form of attack against Australia, Wigan will look to a repeat of the awesome tackling that absorbed nearly everything Brisbane Broncos threw at them in the World Club Challenge match in June.

Watching Australia's flat back line tearing Leeds to shreds, Graeme West, the Wigan coach, observed: "You're not going to stop this lot unless you tackle and tackle some more." Wigan, not surprisingly, stand between

Australia and a likely swathe being cut through club opponents.

Wigan's triumph in Brisbane showed that the Australian power could be resisted. Their victory has since been portrayed in Australia as an irrelevance against a team past its best, but Bobby Fulton, the Australia coach, did not play down its significance.

"They showed just how good they are against Brisbane and why they have been Britain's dominant side for five years now," he said. "We know this is the fourth test in all but name." With a few exceptions, the players will confront one another in the opening John Smith's international. Gaining a psychological advantage is enough of an incentive before Wembley.



Offiah: fiery clash

Losing, too, can play its part in the learning process, and whatever the outcome, Elery Hanley, the Britain coach, will get a number of pointers before naming his 19-man squad on Monday. Wigan's switching of Gary Connolly to full back, a position he filled with distinction in Brisbane, could solve one conundrum.

If Shaun Edwards, fit again after a thigh injury, can outplay Ricky Stuart at scrum half, the temptation to move him to stand-off to accommodate Bobby Goulding must surely be resisted. Dick Best, the former England rugby union coach, said yesterday that Edwards is probably the best half back of either code in the country. To play such a visionary player out of his regular position could invite disaster.

His and Stuart's is one of several fascinating head-to-head clashes. That between Mal Meninga and Valige Tuigamala in the centre, offers the most raw-boned confrontation, while that between Martin Offiah and Michael Hancock should produce fireworks. The Wigan back row of Betts, Farrell and Clarke is the starting combination Hanley probably has in mind, but a three-match suspension yesterday of Sonny Nickle, of St Helens, for a high tackle at Oldham last weekend, has limited one of Hanley's options for the four substitute positions.

It is essential that Kelvin Skerrett makes an impression at prop after missing three games with a fractured cheekbone. His opposite number is London-born Ian Roberts, who became a naturalised Australian the day before the party left and played 20 times for Wigan in the 1986-87 season. With doubts over the fitness of Lazarus, he can stake his international claim.

There is no danger of Australia underestimating Wigan. The key for the home side will be in containment and somehow slowing the Australians' relentless movement at the rucks. Meninga, his outstanding old self at Headingley, said: "This will be our toughest test to date. I think it will be a fair yardstick for how we are going in preparation for the series."

Wigan were overwhelmed in 1990, and Australia have won their last four meetings. Since taking over in May, West has enjoyed a 100 per cent success rate, but as the Kangaroos have already shown, the record book is there to be torn up.

WIGAN: G Connolly, J Robinson, H Paul, V Tuigamala, M Offiah, F Betts, S Edwards, K Skerrett, M Hall, M Connolly, D Betts, A Farrell, P Clarke, Substitutes: P Nicholson, M Connolly, S Macdonald, T O'Connor, AUSTRALIA: JJB, B Muller (Captain); M Hancock (Brisbane), M Meninga (Canberra), S Penfold (Brisbane), W Gidley (Brisbane), L Daley (Canberra), R Stuart (Canberra), D Pay (Canberra), S Walters (Canberra), R Subramaniam (Brisbane), P Sheehan (Brisbane), B Clyde (Canberra), B Fitter (Perth), Substitutes: K Walters (Brisbane), T Bremner (Brisbane), D Faldut (North Sydney), D Furner (Canberra), Referee: D Campbell (Widnes).

Happell's triumph forms cup landmark

By SALLY JONES

MANDY Happell, of Australia, became the first woman to win a match in the coveted Browning Cup, the national real tennis professional handicapped singles championship, when she defeated Andrew Krubbs of Moreton Morrell, in straight sets yesterday.

Happell, 30, one of only two women professionals in Britain, looked sharp and determined, volleying crisply and hitting confidently from the winning opening. She led throughout against the up-and-coming Krubbs and her 6-3, 6-3 win is another milestone in the rapidly expanding women's game. "Everything worked really well for me today," she said. "I was consistent and didn't miss any easy kills. I just felt very confident and I was also cutting the ball well which made it difficult in the corners — very satisfying."

Having worked as a chef in Melbourne, Happell turned professional in 1992, encouraging scores of women to take up the game and playing in matches with Prince Edward, the Holyport Club's most celebrated member.

Earlier this season, she won the British Open women's real tennis doubles championship, her first major international title. The sister of Australia's top amateur, Mike Happell, she is also an outstanding sprinter and good all-round sportsman.

Despite her successes, she is now about to train for a third career. Two weeks ago she resigned from her job as a professional at Holyport and next month returns to Australia to train as a dietitian. In the meantime, she faces a tough on-court challenge this morning when she takes on the powerful Danny Jones, of Seacourt, for a place in the quarter-finals.

Her successor at Holyport, Ivan Ronaldson, the son of the former world champion, Chris Ronaldson, was also a first-round winner, beating the experienced Mark Ryan, of Lord's, 6-4, 6-3.

Results, page 42

Curious customs defeat Philippines dream team

The Asian Games is one of the great events of the sporting round. Perhaps the stars of the show so far, which is poignantly being held in Hiroshima, are the members of the Philippines volleyball team.

Last weekend, the group of 56 men and women arrived at Fukuoka airport. They were all clad in fancy uniforms, brandishing national flags, clapping identification and passports. They all proceeded through immigration, apparently agog for the fun ahead.

All was going swimmingly until a Japanese immigration official wondered if they weren't well, a trifle short for volleyball players. After all, volleyballers do an awful lot of jumping up and down. "They tend to be 175cm [5ft 10in] and upwards," a spokesman from Fukuoka immigration said.

So luggage was searched. Not one member of the party possessed a single item of volleyball equipment. It transpired that this was an elaborate immigration scam, with passes forged in Hong Kong en route to the Games. The fake volleyball players returned voluntarily to Manila, to pursue their dreams of sporting excellence and of greener pastures from the Philippines.

Tea-izing tippie

Further to this column's recent obsession with Power Booster recipes for athletic success comes Asian Games tea. The Japanese green tea served in the Games village comes with the following instruction: "Caution. Powdered green tea served here contains some amount of caffeine. If you have a game today or tomorrow, we advise you not to drink more than one cup."

Granny bashing

The sport of boxing at the Games has been doing its best to encourage the noblest instincts of humanity. "The spectators at ringside still want to see the knockdowns and the blood," Anwar Chowdhury, a leading official in world amateur boxing, said. "But a lot of grandmothers with nothing to do watch it on television. They don't want to see blood. They are not our kind of spectators, but we have to cater for them."

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

We have to make boxing safer, no knockdowns, no knockouts, no blood." He spoke against recent safety measures: "It has eliminated blood from the ring. It has become like child's play." So man is either an ape or a grandmother: this column is on the side of the grandmothers.

In the soup

One of the great legends of modern times concerns the Chinese super-athletes and their mysterious and, they say, absolutely and completely "test us any time" drug-free method of Power Boosting. The Chinese swim-



ming coach, Chun Yungpen, regrets that he will not be able to supply his swimmers with one of the crucial elements of the Power Boosting method during the Games, the item in question being fresh turtle blood. "Japanese customs do not allow importing of live animals," he said regretfully, "and we cannot afford to buy any turtles here."

Dizzy heights

Marathon running is an unusual prison sport. At Any in Belgium, however, they have managed to get round a prison's traditional lack of 26 miles and 385 yards of open road by running round and

round the prison yard. That was 527 circuits, in all. The dizzy winner of the recent running of this event was a man described only as Abdel A. He beat the personal best that he had set when he was young, free and running in the Brussels marathon.

No laughing gas

More on sporting no-goodniks and Power Boosters: Competitors at a recent road race in the United States were given, in the traditional event goody-bag, free copies of a magazine called *Running Times*. On page 87 it contained an advertisement for Up Your Gas: yes, the notorious pick-me-up used by the British runner, Solomon, Wariso, and which caused him to fail a drugs test. Curiously, this fact was not mentioned in the ad: "Sure, it's an unusual name and most people have a good laugh when they hear it. But once they try it, the laughter stops. You know why? Because it works... You'll get a charge out of more than just the name." Solomon certainly did.

Making a splash

It is a sad fact that no woman, however beautiful and however lightly clad, can truly look her best when forced by circumstances to wear a contraceptive on her head. The generally magnificent swimming person, Sharron Davies, has made the great majority of her public appearances wearing a swimming cap. This is a handicap above which Botticelli's Venus would fail to rise. Davies's riposte against this cruel fate is to become involved in what I am assured will be "a hot and sexy calendar" for 1996, featuring la Davies, plus "a host of leading British track and field athletes and swimmers including Karen Pickering, Alex Bennett and Jennifer Stoute." "Yes, the calendar will be sexy," Davies said. "But it will also be very tasteful and artistic." Who would doubt it?

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No sense in crying foul over refereeing clamp-down

As the autumn leaves fall, so English managers, players, and observers drop hints that it is time for a commensurate falling-off in the red cards that have mounted in such numbers in the FA Carling Premiership. The strict refereeing, in the eyes of those on the receiving end, is Draconian in England, and England alone.

That is nonsense. For what statistics are worth, there are more red cards being shown in Italy's Serie A, pro rata, than here in England. But in any case, this is not the time to lose nerve, and the message for those in the professional game who think that they can quickly revert to the abuses, the fouls and the stress on physical disruption is that the clamp-down will go on.

"It has got to continue," Ken Riddon, the Football Association director of refereeing, said. "We can understand that there are players concerned because they have already accumulated as many (disciplinary) points at this early stage as they did in the whole of last season."

"But remember that it was always

the case that players were the ones who committed fouls. The referees are the only medium through which the game can be tidied up, and we believe that the stance taken by Fifa, and adopted in the Premier League, has generally improved football, giving attacking players the freedom to go forward without threat from behind."

Absolutely. The fact that sendings-off have quadrupled at this stage of the season compared to last is evidence that the new code of refereeing is working. The red tide has a certain painful monotony to it, but professional football and the present generation of players are having to go through that pain barrier because the authorities are at last trying to reverse the systematic intimidation and thuggery that had been allowed to permeate play for 20 years or more.

To abandon the effort now would be to abandon the elite corps of 22 referees, chosen by the FA, and charged with carrying out to the letter the mandate of Fifa, the world governing body. These referees themselves now insist that the



ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

methods imposed on them, and the back-up from the FA, must continue; otherwise they have been made to court unpopularity to no good effect.

The refereeing scapegoat of the week has been Keith Cooper, of Pontypridd. On Monday, he sent off Gary Gillespie and Jimmy Willis in the Leicester City v Coventry City Midlands derby. It was televised by Sky, and Willis was condemned by both club managers, and by the studio experts, Gordon Banks and Stuart Pearce.

Yet examine the video dispassionately. It shows that Cooper was entitled to interpret the tackle from behind by Gillespie on Julian Joachim as reckless; the first touch from Gillespie caught the ball, but unmistakably the boot then

whacked into the lower calf of Joachim, and that, under the new rule, can be interpreted only as a foul tackle from behind.

Similarly, the video replays of the aerial challenge by Willis do not justify pillorying Cooper. As Cooper was at pains to say, the cameras misleadingly showed only the collision from behind, and Cooper stresses that he was perfectly placed to see the forearm and elbow go into the face of the opponent. What is required? A ruling that protects players from bodily assault, or a confusion that allows elbowing in the face.

Ridden has seen the video of Cooper's refereeing on Monday and declares himself happy with both decisions. Good for him: the referees, when they are right, need this approval from their employer. Moreover, Cooper, an approachable and honest man, should not have been made to withstand accusations that the second sending-off was triggered by a feeling of guilt after the first.

Not since he had the courage and decency to admit making an error in not sending off Don Hutchison in a West Ham match, should his application to the laws be doubted. The FA is content to allow referees publicly to explain their decisions, but there will be disquiet in the corridors of power if such explanations, such attempts to give a human face to refereeing, meet nothing but scorn.

Statistics prove next to nothing, but when a manager such as Phil Neal, of Coventry, states heatedly that English referees are interpreting the rules differently from those in Italy, this arithmetic might be offered: after five weekends in Italy, 13 red cards have been issued in 45 games. After 67 Premiership games, 21 cards have been shown. The ratio in Italy is a shade higher, and Italy

is in its second season of interpreting a foul tackle from behind as a red card offence.

Moreover, Paolo Casarin, the overlord of Italy's referees and the closest adviser to Fifa, has observed: "A foul is a foul, even in England. For far too long, English referees let players get away with over-physical fouls on the pretext of letting the game flow." In other words, the game here is not leading the refereeing revolution, merely catching up.

The example of football's crackdown is contagious. In the United States, where even the established sports watched in awe the debate on football's clean-up during the World Cup in the summer, the National Basketball Association has just announced a new package of rule changes every bit as Draconian as football's.

The intention, say basketball's rulers, is to increase the scoring and decrease the fouling, brawling and "trash talking". Penalties include automatic fines of \$500 (about £300) a time. Tell that to our squealing footballers.

James and Bennett give boost to British prospects

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN LA BOULIE, FRANCE

IF THE mark of a champion is the way in which he copes with vicissitudes, then consider Warren Bennett. The first of Great Britain and Ireland's golfers to start play in the second round of the world amateur team championship for the Eisenhower Trophy, he hit balls into water on the 2nd and 15th holes at Golf National here, near Paris.

That would have been the end of some but Bennett, 22, showed a maturity that will stand him in good stead when he turns professional shortly. On the short second, he hit his next shot to within five feet of salvage a four. On the 16th his six-iron shot ended no more than three feet from the flag. A birdie was a formality.

To conclude a good morning's work, Bennett eagled the 18th, holing a 40-foot putt from the back fringe of the green. His score, including those two dropped shots for being in water, was a 68, four under par, and it was a very important score for his team.

"Make sure you check your card," Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said. "We don't want to have to call you back in."

Bennett's not so secret agenda is to play as well as he can in this event because it is his last as an amateur. "I want to go out with a bang," he said. His first round of 72 was poor by his standards and his rhythm had let him down.

Yesterday, after a good practice session the night before, his rhythm was back to its smooth best. It was particularly discernible when he played from some of the raised tees that are a feature of the L'Albatros course. He swung so rhythmically that sometimes it looked as though he was having a practice swing, when, in fact, he was hitting a drive.

Lee James scored even better.

Colin Montgomerie
portrait, page 46

ter than Bennett, his team mate. The amateur champion played the back nine in 31, five under par, eagling the 18th as Bennett had hours earlier. James turned for home thinking that seven or eight under was on the cards. It might have been except that he played his last three holes poorly, dropping a shot at the short eighth where he missed the green with a five-iron. A 66 to go with his first-round 69 means he leads the individual competition by three strokes from Greg Chalmers, of Australia.

Stephen Gallacher had another poor day on the greens and his 75 was the score that Great Britain and Ireland did not count. Unfortunately, Gordon Sherry finished limply. The massive Scot was one under par on the 15th tee, two over coming off the 18th green.

He had to wait for ten minutes while Niccolò Bisazza, a playing partner, hit three successive balls into the water on the 15th and ran up a ten. Perhaps disconcerted by this delay, Sherry sent his second shot into the same water and took six. He missed a putt of less than two feet for a par on the 17th.

Great Britain and Ireland's aggregate of 208 for the day, eight under par, gave them a lead of one stroke over the United States, who had led by five strokes overnight, and two over Australia.

Allen Doyle had a 70 and Todd Demsey a 69 for the Americans. It was "Tiger" Woods who let the side down. He could no better than a 75, which, nevertheless, had to be counted as the team's third best score because John Harris, the fourth member, went round in 77.

On another glorious, golden day it was puzzling that the pace of play was so sluggish. Several groups of three took nearly five hours to get round. This is far too slow, surely?



Bennett back on form

Keegan and Dalglish present two of the best

By PETER BALL

NEWCASTLE United's season so far has been charmed and charming, delighting the nation with their style and their supporters with their successes. Tomorrow, they face their biggest test yet as they entertain Blackburn, who are also winning games, if few admirers, with their direct, hard-running football.

One Blackburn admirer, however, is Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, who yesterday said that he regarded them as the greatest threat to his side's championship hopes. Blackburn's recent form might suggest that Keegan is being generous, with the European exit at the hands of Trelleborgs FF, a defeat by Norwich and a draw at Birmingham in their last three games. Keegan, however, is more cautious.

"I was shocked when they lost to Trelleborgs, but I don't think Kenny was too bothered — he takes it in his stride."

Uefa has overturned the result of a Uefa Cup first leg match won 3-2 by CSKA Sofia against Juventus last month because the Bulgarian team fielded an ineligible player who scored the winning goal.

Keegan said, "People are talking about a crisis, but they are third in the Premiership and in the third round of the Coca-Cola Cup."

"They are the big danger to our title hopes. Manchester United are still there, and I would be the last man to write them off, but they have other priorities. They feel that, if they are going to be really big, they need to pick up the European Cup. If it was a choice between the two, they would take the European Cup rather than the Premiership. They could win both, but I feel that Blackburn are ready to make a serious challenge."

Watching the two sides at the moment, it is hard to believe that the managers were educated at the same Liverpool footballing academy, for while Newcastle are embodying many of the best Anfield principles of passing and movement, Blackburn are a much more basic team these

days, getting the ball forward early to Shearer or Sutton. Dalglish, however, may argue that this is simply playing to their strengths, and his Liverpool team of Beardsley and Barnes embodied many of the principles which can be seen at St James' Park these days.

The match tomorrow will offer an interesting contrast in styles. The game might also provide a test of Newcastle's depth of squad. They have four players injured, Beardsley, Cole, Sellars and Fox. Beardsley, who has a thigh injury, is the most doubtful and, if he is absent, it will remove the potentially fascinating comparison between the two front pairs — Beardsley and Cole, Shearer and Sutton. For all their goals, Shearer admits that he and Sutton can still improve.

A test of Manchester United's priorities, and the depth of their squad, will come at Hillsborough this afternoon. United have had the better of a lot of high scoring games there over the years, but with Kanchelskis and Cantona both on international duty and Giggs injured, they may struggle this afternoon.

Keith Gillespie, the Northern Ireland international, will make his Premiership debut against Sheffield Wednesday in place of Kanchelskis, but otherwise United's line-up is in the balance. McClair, who may regard this as his lucky ground, such is his scoring record there, is likely to play, and Keane may make one of his last appearances before his hernia operation.

Wednesday recall David Hirst in an attempt to solve their goalscoring problems after three games on the bench. "David's been frustrated with his form and that's why I left him out," Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, said. "But he's an important player and to have him back and scoring goals would be an important boost."

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, must decide whether to leave players out of a winning team when he picks the side to play Aston Villa. Barnes, Rush and Scales are all fit after missing the 4-1 romp at Turf Moor. Barnes's return would be tough on an in-form Jamie Redknapp.



Artilles, left, whose Tottenham team has lost four successive home matches, and Shilton, involved in public squabbles with his chairman

Knives are out as journey's end approaches

Russell Kempson reports on the managers whose jobs are threatened as the hunting season kicks off in earnest

With the FA Carling Premiership and Endpoints Insurance League programmes less than two months old, the boardroom knives are being sharpened with increasing ferocity. Ten managers have already been dismissed, left by mutual consent, resigned, been shunted sideways or pushed upstairs. Now the hunting season starts in earnest.

The book has long been closed on Mike Walker, of Everton, whose Merseyside misfits lie at the bottom of the Premiership and have failed to win in ten league and cup matches. Their 4-3 aggregate demise against Portsmouth, in the Coca-Cola Cup second round on Wednesday, and the subsequent vote of confidence from Peter Johnson, the chairman, have just about sealed his fate. Defeat against Southampton, at The Dell this afternoon, may prove a reverse too far.

For all Johnson's nice words, he has

not earned his millions by tolerating second, or 22nd, best. That Duncan Ferguson and Ian Durrant have been signed on loan from Rangers, with Walker's involvement in the deal apparently peripheral, suggests Johnson is not averse to taking the law into his own hands.

Everton's swift return to the south coast, against a Southampton side that has won five of its last six matches, does not bode well. Ferguson is doubtful with a foot injury and Durrant is likely to remain on the substitutes' bench, with Walker reasonably content with how his midfield performed at Fratton Park.

Sixty-five miles up the A34, the exceedingly public trials of Peter

Shilton will continue at Oxford United, where Plymouth Argyle stop off on their latest Endpoints second division mission. Dan McCauley, the Argyle chairman, has been remarkably frank in the media all week regarding allegations of Shilton's financial misfortune. He also claimed the former England goalkeeper worked only eight hours a week.

On Thursday, at a lengthy board meeting at Home Park, the pair squared up again. Shilton eventually emerged, demanding an apology from his accuser, but McCauley declined. Oxford has witnessed its fair share of high-level squabbling in the past, when Robert Maxwell ruled the Manor Ground roost, but Argyle

should remember today that league points are more important than political points. Plymouth are nineteenth in the table, Oxford second.

Take a route along the M40, M42 and M6 and Keith Burkinshaw can be found in similar distress at West Bromwich Albion, where he was due to have discussions of a meaningful nature with Tony Hale, the new club chairman, last night. Albion, next from bottom in the first division, play Sunderland at The Hawthorns today.

Back down in north London, Tottenham Hotspur take on Queens Park Rangers at White Hart Lane, where Osvaldo Artilles will be playing Tottenham avoid a fifth successive home defeat. He, too, has been given verbal support by his chairman, Alan Sugar, but another loss on home territory would not be the most appropriate response. All around, the daggers are being honed to perfection.

England face tough test

By ALYSON RUDD

THE England women's football team faces Iceland in Reykjavik today in the first leg of their European championship quarter-final match. It promises to be a stern test on a cold afternoon under floodlights in the national stadium. Iceland are a physically strong, imposing side with a well-organised defence.

"They are a tough team, very positive, and very determined," Edward Copeland, the manager of the England team, said.

Copeland watched Iceland defeat Holland a fortnight ago, and sees the key to the match today as being how England handle Iceland's sweeper system.

"We've got to try to beat the sweeper system. We have got one or two things up our sleeves for that, and we know

who their best players are," Copeland said.

Iceland's 1-0 victory in Holland took them to the top of their qualification group. Until that game, two weeks ago, Copeland did not know whom England would be facing, even though England qualified six months ago. He had to arrange contingency travel plans to be ready for either Iceland or Holland.

The latter would have presented a very different contest. Although the Dutch were, not surprisingly, the more technically gifted, they tended to pass once too often when a shot might have been more profitable. "Their finishing was very poor. It was atrocious, in fact," Copeland said.

England's finishing, while not that bad, had been a cause of concern for Copeland, al-

though he believes they solved most of their scoring problems during their 6-0 victory over Belgium in March.

Meanwhile, Copeland will be without Gail Borman today. He rates her as the most improved player during his year in charge.

Unfortunately, she has been sidelined for six months with a cruciate ligament injury. She played in all England's qualifying matches, and with Samantha Britton, of Arsenal, and Louise Waller, of Millwall Lionesses, also ruled out, there could be one or two new caps awarded today.

The England manager will not reveal anything, however. He may not, like Terry Venables, be under an intense media spotlight, but Copeland guards his starting line-ups just as closely.

Little movement in money market

By KEVIN MCCARRA

THROUGHOUT Scotland, money is being hoarded to develop stadiums or merely to appease bankers. The Old Firm may be capable of making an occasional dramatic signing, but the everyday business of barter and purchase is almost extinct. Clubs stick by, and are stuck with, the men already on their books.

In Edinburgh, for example, neither Heart of Midlothian nor Hibernian have a single new player this season. When it comes to acquiring a fresh look such clubs can do little more than apply a few rolls of wallpaper and a lick of paint.

Accordingly, it becomes ever harder to hold onto the supporters' attention and their disposable income.

Fortunately, football itself can draft its own intriguing plot lines which have nothing to do with managers' intentions. Long-term injuries to seasoned first team players such as Graham Mitchell and Keith Wright have, for instance, ensured prominence for youngsters in the squad which meets Rangers at Easter Road this afternoon.

Graeme Love, a left back, and Kevin Harper, the 18-year-old striker, have been impressive this season. Harper has particularly sparked comment. At 5ft 6in, he appears at an immediate disadvantage, but, like other small players, possesses a compressed vitality.

His exuberance brought many chances against an uneasy Celtic defence a fortnight ago, even if he squandered as Hibs eventually lost 2-1. He had, however, scored on the opening day of the season

when Dundee United were defeated 5-0. His talent is not readily kept at bay.

Alex Miller, the manager of Hibs, has tried to expand his squad but he has been unable to identify the right man at the right price. When everyone is fit Hibs can prove an awkward team and they tend to be at their best before the wear and tear of a season takes its toll.

The pattern is evident in their success in winning the 1991 Skol Cup and reaching the final of the competition in 1993.

Only Rangers have so far scored more than Hibs, for whom Michael O'Neill has been in outstanding form.

The Ibrox side also has a juvenile air, injuries and the inclination of Walter Smith, the manager, to reshape his

squad explain the presence of teenagers such as Craig Moore and Charlie Miller in the midfield for last Saturday's win over Dundee United.

Both retain their places in the pool even though Ally McCoist is now fit and Gordon Durie returns from suspension. Alexei Mikhailichenko should be absent despite the fact that Rangers are trying to persuade the Ukrainian FA to permit the midfielder to play a day's grace before compelling him to join the international squad for a match next week.

Rangers' future lies with players such as the Australian, Moore. His maturity is not really surprising in a youngster willing to cross continents to sign for Rangers in 1993, when he was just 17.

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SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8 1994

SIMON BARNES 46
PHILIPPINES VOLLEYBALL
SQUAD FALLS SHORT
AT ASIAN GAMES

Leading players humbled as top-seeded countries lose in Dunhill Cup

Ireland excel on day of surprises

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THE weather and the scoring were at least 30 miles per hour better on the second day of the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews yesterday but the results were not entirely predictable.

In traditional spoiling style, Ireland, unseeded, defeated the United States, the defending champions and top seeds: Canada pipped Zimbabwe, the second seeds, with Nick Price, the world No.1, succumbing to a Dave Barr birdie on the last in the deciding game; and Spain, blown to a collective 23 over par on Thursday, improved by 30 shots to give Australia a fright.

The Scots were steadiness personified in beating Taiwan 3-0 with Colin Montgomerie, Gordon Brand Jr and Andrew Coltart all going round in 70, two under par. "I used to play here in the holidays," Coltart, the rookie from Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, said. "But this is the first time I've broken par." Neither he nor

Colin Montgomerie fits perfectly into a sport riddled with contradictions... he is intelligent, articulate and a brilliant golfer. To fellow Scots, none of this amounts to a hill of beans.

Saturday portrait, page 46

Montgomerie dropped a shot and the only blemish on the taut card was a bogey by Brand at the fourth.

Today the Scots play South Africa, who beat Paraguay 2-1. The South Americans gamely continue to strive for the upset that is now almost expected of them. Angel Franco, the less celebrated of the two brothers, again showed a penchant for topping the big names at extra holes. Last year the 36-year-old father of four from Asuncion beat John Daly at the 20th; this year he overcame Ernie Els at the 24th.

Philip Walton and Darren Clarke were Ireland's winners, with victories over Tom Kite, the former US Open champion, and Fred Couples, the former Masters champion, respectively. Curtis Strange secured a point that might prove valuable in the final group reckoning tonight by beating Paul McCarty with a 74 to a 76. "I played well but putted horribly," Strange said. "I putted horribly." Couples



Clarke, one of Ireland's winners in the 2-1 triumph over the United States, tees off at the 2nd on his way to a three-shot defeat of Couples. Walton provided Ireland's other success

said. "I hit a lot of lousy shots," Kite said. All three headed off to the practice ground.

Walton, the Irish captain, dropped three shots in the last two holes on Thursday and as a result his team lost to New Zealand. An experienced Old Course hand noted that the Dubliner, who played in 1990 when Ireland won the title, had committed the three cardinal sins here. He had gone into the Swilcan burn at the 17th and the Valley of Sin at the 18th. Yesterday Walton did none of those things.

He and Kite were level after 13 holes but there was a two-shot swing at the 14th, where Walton had a birdie four and Kite took six after taking two in one of those pestiferous pot-bunkers. Walton then birdied the next, to move three ahead

and he was five ahead with one to play, when Kite took six at the 17th, a danger to any card, in any conditions.

Clarke was three strokes behind after five holes against Couples, a fellow big boomer, but when the former had an

unlikely birdie three at the 7th and the latter missed from six feet, the Ulsterman felt he had found an opening to get back in the game. So it proved, for he was one ahead after a birdie two at the 11th, having had a birdie three at the 9th

and a par four to the American's bogey at the 10th.

Irish nerves were nearly settled when Clarke moved further in front thanks to a birdie of his own at the 14th and bogeys from Couples at the 15th and 16th. Clarke

escaped from the 17th with a five and was assured of victory when he did not drive out of bounds at the last — something that is not common but is very possible. As José Rivera, of Spain, had demonstrated against Barry Lane on Thursday.

With the air of a man revitalised, or at least the relief of one removed from a wind tunnel, Rivera improved by ten shots, coming home in 33 for a 67 that left Robert Allenby, who shot 69, crestfallen.

In the first match, Steve Elkington also had a 67, to see off Miguel Angel Martin and the result depended on what happened between Greg Norman and Miguel Angel Jimenez.

They were level, two under par, after 15 holes, the flam-

boyant Australian looking a little subdued in his plain dark green team jersey with not a psychedelic stripe in sight. However, his predatory instincts were not dulled. When he did not see the ball bounce after Jimenez's drive at the 16th, he knew it was in the pot-bunker beyond the cluster of sand known as the Principal's Nose. Norman took an iron off the tee and then sank a crucial ten-foot putt for his par four, to move one ahead.

At the 17th, from the left rough, Norman hit a magnificent four-iron on to the green, pin high, and Jimenez made another mistake, his seventh, kicking off the green behind the Road Hole bunker, from where he could not get close. It was adios, amigos.

Bennett's day, page 47

Dismissal for Correa as Lewis looks for new trainer

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis dismissed his boxing trainer, Pepe Correa, yesterday, according to Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager. Lewis is considering a list of four names from which to choose a new man. Emanuel Steward, who trained Oliver McColl, is also on the list, together with George Benton, Evander Holyfield's former trainer, and two other Americans.

"We decided a few days ago, but we were waiting for Lennox's approval," Maloney said. "The parting was on amicable terms. It was a good move for Lennox that will give him fresh incentive. Pepe had taken him as far as he could. Their relationship had become stale."

"We will be looking at four names, including Emanuel Steward and George Benton, and will be making an announcement next week. The other two members of the training team, Courtney Shand and Harold Knight, are still with us for the moment."

Lewis's management team and the former champion's American promoter, Dan Duva, are still considering the best course of action for Lewis after an offer of \$10 million to McColl for a rematch was rejected.

"I'm not surprised McColl won't fight Lennox again," Maloney said. "After being out of the heavyweight scene for so long, Don King doesn't want to risk losing it again. It doesn't matter that McColl was going to make \$10 million. King is looking to his own interests. Who is going to offer McColl \$10 million again?"

Two other British heavyweights, Herbie Hide and Frank Bruno, are waiting to hear about their next move. The promotion in Hong Kong on April 23 on which they were to appear was reported to be in danger of being called off if flight tickets and letters of credit from the promoters did not arrive in the next 24 hours.

Mickey Duff, the London promoter, was optimistic yesterday that the tournament would go ahead. Bruno is scheduled to meet Ray Mercer, the former World Boxing Organisation champion.

TIMES SPORT

SPORT ON MONDAY

Times Sport on Monday offers 13 pages on the best of the weekend's action and the fullest results service



JACK'S BACK IN ACTION

Robert Crampston flies to Dublin, where Jack Charlton is opening his latest chapter in his Irish adventure story with a book about his team's exploits in the World Cup this summer



CLUB VERSUS COUNTRY

Christopher Irvine watches Mel Morris lead his touring Australian rugby league team to Central Park to play Wigan, recently crowned world club champions

Topolski back at the helm as Oxford attempt to rediscover winning habit

John Goodbody and Mike Rosewell consider the return of the Dark Blues' celebrated coach

Oxford University, beaten by Cambridge in the last two Boat Races, have recalled Dan Topolski in an attempt to restore the domination that they enjoyed under his coaching in the 1970s and 1980s.

It is a dramatic return to Oxford for Topolski, who resigned in 1987 after his makeshift crew, weakened by the mutiny of American students, had won the most unexpected of victories over Cambridge.

Two months later, however, Chris Penny, one of the four American rebels, was elected president of the boat club for the following year and this led to the resignation of Topolski, who had coached Oxford to 12 victories, including ten in succession, since 1973.

There was still an unpleasant legacy from the dispute, which centred on selection and training. On the one side, there were Topolski and Donald Macdonald, the Oxford president that year, and on the other were the Americans, with the rest of the crew between the two camps. In 1990, Topolski wrote a book, *True Blue*, about the incident, which was denounced by the Americans. It was runner-up as Sports Book of the Year.

With Cambridge now leading 71-68 in the series, Oxford have once again turned to Topolski. He was yesterday appointed coaching director with Penny Chuter, a meticulous technician and former director of British international rowing, as chief coach. They are paid positions on three-year contracts.

It is a highly experienced and talented pairing, and one that should revive the oarsmen of Oxford who, Topolski admitted yesterday, had "be-

come demoralised after last April. Our job after the experience of the last two years is to reinvigorate them. There is also a huge gulf after the University crew. There is no pyramid. The job includes trying to fill that gap."

Topolski found it "a little difficult" to make the decision to return to Oxford because "I had been heading off in different directions in my writing career. However, I have been sucked back in. The Boat Race is quite involving."

He said that Penny Chuter, who has worked with conspicuous success for the Amateur Rowing Association since 1973,

would be the "day-to-day" coach and he thought the pair of the would make a "good team". He has already been helping prepare the prospective crew members for the race, on April 1.

The appointment of Topolski, who rowed in the Oxford crews in 1967 and 1968, and Chuter, a former sculling international, was made by the president, Jeremiah McLanahan, and Steve Royle, the director of rowing, in consultation with the Old Blues Committee. McLanahan, an American, rowed in the second boat, Isis, last season and is the first president to be ap-

pointed not having rowed in the Boat Race since... Chris Penny in 1988.

Royle said: "Dan's knowledge of the race is second to none and we think he is the best person to lead Oxford's second revival. Penny Chuter has been involved with the sport of rowing for over 30 years and is excited by the challenge of returning to hands-on coaching."

In 1993, Cambridge upset a powerful Oxford crew, including Matthew Pinsent, an Olympic champion, and this year produced perhaps their best-ever crew, which won the Beefeater Gin Trophy by 6½ lengths. Although one of their coaches, Sean Bowden, is "retiring", Robin Williams, a club-mate of Topolski at London RC, has taken over the top Cambridge post. He will be helped by John Wilson and Harry Mahon, the New Zealand national coach, two of the trio responsible for Cambridge's recent resurgence.

Of the memorable 1987 victory, by four lengths, Topolski was later to write: "As the Dark Blue Boat drifted under the bridge, I saw a sight I have never before witnessed after the Boat Race. A lone figure was standing up in the Oxford boat, balancing like a statue on the two wooden stays, which run just beneath the saxboards inside the boat. His mighty arms were raised upwards to the sky and his face stared in ecstasy into the heavens beyond."

"It might have been a demonstration of brute strength, or even a display of massive triumph—the bold stance of a victor. But, for a few brief, shining moments, Donald Macdonald was alone with his God."



Topolski: resigned after dispute over selection and training

Spirited Sukova causes surprise

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE top two seeds were knocked out in the quarter-finals of the European women's indoor championships in Zurich yesterday. Martina Navratilova's hopes of a 168th career title were dashed by Helena Sukova, of the Czech Republic, and the second seed, Mary Pierce, went out to another unseeded player, Miriam Oremans, of Holland, who won 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

Sukova, who has slipped to 41st in the rankings after five years in the top ten, beat Navratilova 7-5, 3-6, 6-4. Navratilova, who will be 38 later this month and plans to retire at the end of the year, was never at ease against a player nine years her junior.

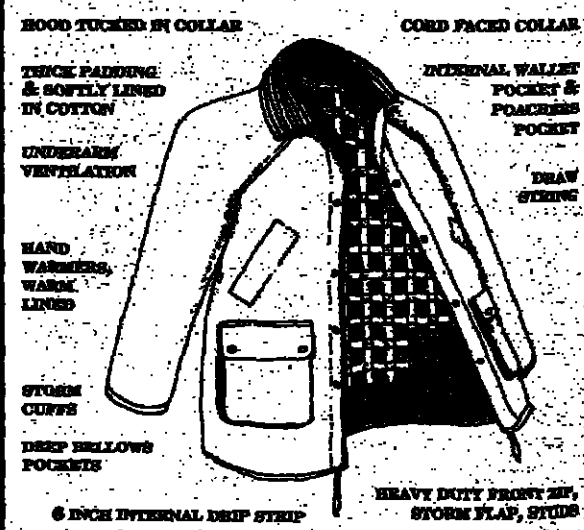
"She hit the winners and played very well," Navratilova said. "I kept trying but she was better on the big points and I made a lot of unforced errors."

The American, beaten finalist in Zurich for the last two years, added: "I am naturally very disappointed. This was one I wanted so much to win on my last visit."

With Steffi Graf absent because of injury, this tournament had looked the easiest for Navratilova to win before her final bow.

When she did go to the net she was frequently left stranded as Sukova passed her with ease. Sukova, who fell out of the top ten in 1989, said: "This win is a great boost for my morale. I was very confident but I surprised even myself by some points that I won."

Results, page 42

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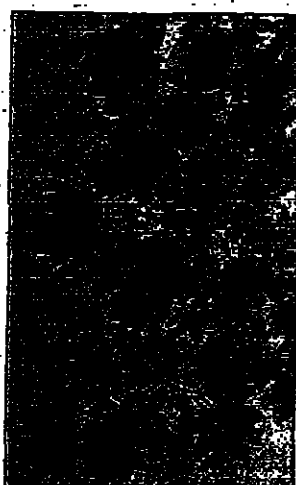


Win a trip to Kenya, home of The Lion King

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PLUS: Boston holiday offer, page 7

GARDENING



Where to find the best of autumn colour

Page 11

PLUS: Readers' questions answered

HOLIDAYS



Making the most of the Gap Year: adventure travel

Pages 20-21

PLUS: Ski guide to America, page 22

NATIONAL LOTTERY



Improve your odds: thousands of tickets to win

Page 3

PLUS: Two-for-one holidays, page 25

WEEKEND

HOW TO FIND THE MONEY ON LOTTERY STREET

By Nigel Hawkes

Every time Britain has previously organised a national lottery it has ended in tears. Three hundred years ago, lotteries were suppressed as common nuisances by which children, servants and other unwary persons had been ruined. They popped up again, of course: no such miraculous way of raising cash can be suppressed for ever. Fraud, counterfeiting and the rising tide of moralism got them banned again in 1826.

This time, it will all be quite different. A consortium of companies of irreproachable respectability has been given the job of running the lottery. Tickets go on sale on Monday, November 14, and even now the machines that will spill out the lucky numbers are being checked for bias by the British Standards Institution.

Sophisticated encryption systems have been devised and a high-speed communications network installed. Nothing has been left to chance, except the result of the draw itself, which offers us all the implausible odds of 13,983,816 to one against winning the £2 million jackpot.

Camelot, the group that won the contract to run the lottery, is confident that the British public will be happy to take its chance. Certainly, the American state lotteries have generated huge amounts of money: the Massachusetts version sells more than \$250 (£175) of tickets a year for every man, woman and child in the state. In the seven-year licence period, Camelot expects to pull in a total of £32 billion, with annual sales peaking in year five or six at about £5.5 billion a year.

The lottery will work like this. Every player will spend £1 to choose six numbers between one and 49, which will be printed on a ticket. Then, once a week on a live television broadcast, the winning numbers will be picked by a random number generator, a machine looking something like a spin-drier which will eject six numbered balls. The first draw will be on Saturday, November 19.

If your ticket contains the six numbers drawn, in any order, you will win a jackpot expected to be worth £2 million or more, or a share of that sum if other people have picked the same numbers. Five correct numbers will win about £1,500; four, about £55; and three, exactly £10. The higher prizes depend on how many tickets have been sold, because the lottery is a game in which the size of the winnings (fourth prizes excluded) depends on the amounts wagered by the punters.

There is a simple formula for working out the odds against choosing the right six numbers out of 49. It is $n!$ divided by $r!(n-r)!$, where n is 49 and r is six. The exclamation mark (mathematicians call it a "shriek") means factorial — that is, $6!$ is $6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$. Not all lottery games are 6/49, as the National Lottery will be: the California lottery is 6/53, and New York 6/54. This may not seem much of an alteration, but it certainly shifts the odds in an unattractive direction. The odds against a jackpot

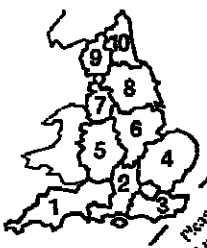
Continued on page 3, col 1



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19. ☐ FALKLANDS
20. ☐ OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

In the know on where to go.



its yesterday

difference

COVER STORY

3

Continued from page 1

in a 6/53 lottery are 25 million to one, and in a 6/54 lottery more than 25 million to one. (New York, in fact, sells two tickets for a dollar, which brings the odds back down to 12.5 million to one.)

Second, third and fourth prizes offer slightly less vertiginous odds: 12,900 to one against getting five of the numbers right in the National Lottery, 920 to one against getting four right, and 54 to one against getting three right. What this means is that for £1 you have a one in 54 chance of winning £10; if bookies offered such a prospect, they would not expect to be trampled in the rush. It is the vanishingly small chance of hitting the jackpot that keeps the lottery punters coming.

The trick with organising lotteries is to ensure that the jackpot isn't won every week. "Rollovers", in which the jackpot is carried over to the following week, greatly add to the fervour with which people play the game. The National Lottery is limited by law to three successive rollovers, when three draws have failed to find a jackpot winner, the prize money will be redistributed to the lower prizes in the next draw.

At least the National Lottery will give its winners an enormous cheque, tax-free, unlike many American lotteries which actually offer only an annuity. Winners of the \$1 million prize in most American lotteries may find that what they are in fact getting is about \$35,000 a year: nice but not overwhelming. The American lotteries do this because it is much cheaper to buy an annuity that will ultimately add up to a million than to hand over the cash.

There is only one sure way to win a lottery, and that is to buy enough tickets to include every possible combination. This may sound impossible, but it has been done not once but three times by an Australian, Peter Mandel.

For his biggest coup, Mr Mandel chose to play the Virginia state lottery, a 6/44 game which meant that \$7 million would be needed to cover every combination. He gathered a team, waited for a week in which rollovers had pushed the jackpot to \$27 million, and pounced.

Just buying that many tickets would have been physically impossible, so the team printed their own, and swapped them in supermarkets for the real tickets — legal, at the time. They needed 20 computers, 12 laser printers and 16 people working full time to pull it off.

In the end, the whole plan nearly failed, when part of the team stopped work, leaving Mr Mandel with only 90 per cent of the possible combinations. But one of them came up, and nobody else had it, so

he won the \$27 million. This kind of malarkey will not be worthwhile in Britain. To be sure of winning a 6/49 game, a syndicate would have to spend almost £14 million, and the limit on rollovers means that the jackpot will never be that large.

But how can we manage to get our share? Well, the lucky will win and the unlucky will lose, but most people can expect the odd £10 fourth prize. For those prepared to spend some time at it, there are ways to increase the chances.

So what can be done to improve on the odds?

Sam Weren, a physicist who works in industry in the north of England — he is reluctant to be more specific lest his work makes mock — has put his mind to the problem and produced a book, *The National Lottery Book — winning strategies*. For a start, he says, no random number generator is ever perfectly random. It will tend to pick some numbers more often than others: a bias that may be imperceptibly small but after a sufficient number of draws, sophisticated analysis using computer programs developed for astro-

physics may be able to detect it.

"It'll be very, very small, but if there's a chance of winning millions, it's well worth looking for it," he says. "I'll definitely do it."

Mr Weren also offers some advice about which numbers to pick. Many people, he says, pick numbers which are simply too low.

They have the same mathematical chance of winning, but if they do there is a much greater chance that other people will have picked the same combination, splitting the prizes.

Why people pick lower numbers is not entirely clear, though the tendency to choose their own birthdates is one reason. Since there are only 12 months of the year and 31 days in the month, numbers below 31 tend to be chosen.

Mr Weren also suggests that the numbers chosen, when added together, should total between 135 and 185. If winning totals from lotteries are plotted, they follow a bell-shaped curve whose peak for a 6/49 game is at totals in this range. But it strikes me that this tells us something about mathematics, and nothing about lotteries: sets of six numbers chosen from 49 inevitably show such a distribution, if they are randomly chosen.

A more sophisticated technique, invented by the mathematician Robert Serot, is called "wheeling": this is used when you make multiple entries, choosing your six numbers for each entry from a pool of, say, ten or 12. The object is to ensure that every possible winning combination of these

numbers is included. The real bonus of this technique, Mr Weren argues, is in collecting second and third prizes.

Let's suppose that instead of picking six numbers, you choose 12. Producing every possible way in which those 12 could be arranged in groups of six would cost £924 to play — with odds of winning the jackpot still only one in 15,000. The



Though unsophisticated in its way of selecting winning numbers, "La Lotte" game in Naples attracts hordes of punters

Winners and losers

● The size of the cash prizes in national and state lotteries is dwarfed by the magnitude of the emotions that accompany the winning or losing of them. Whereas finding oneself a few million pounds better off is utter joy, the anger and frustration of a near-win can be positively dangerous.

● Jim Desantis, a factory foreman from California played the state lottery for 65 weeks with the same set of six numbers, winning a total of £3. On the 66th week, when he had neglected to enter, his numbers came up. He missed out on £5 million. "Suddenly," Mr Desantis said, "I wanted to die."

● Kirk Godson of Portland, Oregon, believed that he had lost a winning lottery ticket worth £2 million. Such was his despair, he decided to lose his life as well. After his death, the state lottery announced that there were no winning tickets for that draw.

● Doris Barnett from Los Angeles thought she had netted the £2-million top prize in the state lottery — all she needed was the sixth ball on the wheel of fortune to match her sixth number. The wheel spun, the ball bounced — and fell into the right number. She was ecstatic. Three seconds later, the ball fell out. The lottery's rules claimed that it had to stay there for five seconds. Mrs Barnett handled it well. "I'll be back," she told the organisers. She was. She sued the company for the prize money, and was awarded an extra £266,000 in damages for "emotional trauma".

● When seaman Jim Cohoon of Toronto won £250,000 in the lottery, he was seized by a fit of generosity and started to dish out \$1,000 bills to passers-by. He also spent £50,000 on his shipmates. Within 11 weeks he had spent every cent, and because he had given up his job, ended up on the dole.

● Frieda Procidia, an Illinois housewife, dropped her lottery ticket in a bakery. A policeman friend, Phillip Sylvester, picked it up and refused to surrender it. Under duress, Procidia allowed Sylvester to keep the ticket, so long as he shared any winnings. The ticket won the £6 million jackpot. Sylvester kept the lot.

GUY WALTERS

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wheeling technique consists of using charts of numbers arranged in rows and columns (called matrices) to come up with a pared-down version, costing much less, that maximises the number of lower prizes you may win. Computer programs are available to carry out the same task.

In the case of selecting combinations of six from a pool of 12, Mr Weren says that a strategy costing £18 ensures you could arrive at a combina-

tion of numbers that would win you at least a second prize — assuming the six winning numbers were in your original 12. A big assumption.

Convinced? Not at all. But we can be sure that as soon as the lottery gets under way people will devote themselves to identifying the "hot numbers" — those that seem to be having a run — and the cold ones, which never seem to come out of the machine. Despite offering all the skill

of bingo without the community spirit, lotteries do attract frenzied support. Perhaps it's not so surprising. In America, millionaires are being created at the rate of two and a half a day through lottery jackpots: California alone created 173 of them in 1990.

Look at it that way and the odds don't seem quite so dismayingly long.

● The National Lottery Book, by Sam Weren (Faber & Faber, £4.99).

THE TIMES LOTTERY PRIZE DRAW

21,000 National Lottery tickets to be won

STARTING today and continuing over the next four weeks, *The Times* is offering readers the chance to win thousands of National Lottery tickets for the first draw on Saturday, November 19.

There are expected to be about 250,000 lottery winners in the first draw, with cash prizes ranging from £10 to an estimated £2,000,000.

Each entry into *The Times* National Lottery has a one in 54 chance of winning a prize. So, with 21,000 lottery tickets bought on your behalf by *The Times* on Monday, November 14, the first day of sale, it is extremely likely that we will have a fair number of lottery

winners among our readers. Lottery tickets cost £1 and are valid for one week only. Ticker buyers can either select their own six numbers from 1 to 49 or the numbers can be randomly selected for them when they buy a ticket.

Our agents will select the numbers randomly and will send their number confirmation ticket receipts to our data input team, who will then enter our lottery numbers on to our database so that we can allocate numbers to ticket winners.

All ticket winners will be notified by post, after the closing date, Tuesday, November 8, 1994.

FIRST PRIZE 10,000 £1 tickets

SECOND PRIZE 2,000 £1 tickets

THIRD PRIZE 1,000 £1 tickets

Ten fourth prizes of 100 £1 tickets

100 fifth prizes of 20 £1 tickets

500 runners-up prizes of 10 £1 tickets

HOW TO ENTER

TO enter, simply collect ten lottery tokens from *The Times*.

The first token is printed at the bottom of this page and further tokens will appear each day, Monday to Saturday, in *The Times* for the next four weeks, giving you a total of 24 tokens — and enabling you to make two entries in the draw for tickets.

When you have collected ten tokens, send them with an official entry form, printed below (the entry form will be

repeated in next Saturday's edition of *Weekend* to:

The Times Lottery Prize Draw, PO Box 2746, Colchester, Essex CO1 1QU.

Your entry will then be entered in *The Times* lottery prize draw.

The ticket winners will be selected randomly from entries received after the closing date, Tuesday, November 8, 1994, and notified by post.

Look out for another token in *The Times* on Monday.

INCREASE YOUR CHANCES

READERS can enter up to four times to increase their chance of winning lottery tickets by also collecting tokens from *The Sunday Times*.

Over the next four weeks, *The Sunday Times* will publish a total of 16 tokens. Collect all 16 tokens from *The Sunday Times* and all 24 tokens from *The Times* and you can enter our draw four times.

Each entry must be on a separate entry form and must be accompanied by ten tokens

from either *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*.

TWO BONUS ENTRIES

In addition, if you collect and save all 40 tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* you will be given two FREE entries into the prize draw. When you have collected the 40 tokens, complete our bonus entry form, which will be printed on Saturday, November 5 and send it with your tokens to the address above.

Your French Experience starts here

What better way to make the most of your trip to France than by speaking a little of the language? And here's how the BBC can help you — with *The French Experience*, a new multimedia language course for adults. Whether you are starting from scratch, or brushing up your rusty school skills, *The French Experience* is the most flexible, comprehensive and up-to-date course available. It allows you to learn the way you want to.

The French Experience course consists of:

- 20 programmes on BBC1 Sundays 10.30 – 10.45am from 2 October
- 16 programmes on Radio 4 Sundays 8.30 – 9.15pm from 9 October
- Complementary print and audio materials, available through booksellers.

For further details or an order form contact BBC Education Information, BBC White City, London W12 7TS.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 Open to all residents in the UK and Channel Islands except employees of News International.

2 The promotion is open for registration until November 8, 1994. The promotion closes after the first lottery draw on November 19. All entries must be received by November 8 to be included in the prize draw.

3 Entries must be on an entry form and each must be accompanied by ten tokens or they will not be valid to enter in the draw.

4 Names of the winners of lottery tickets will be published in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* during week commencing November 7, 1994.

5 A full list of lottery ticket numbers and any *Times* Newspapers lottery winners will be available by writing to *The Times* Customer Services Department, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9NN.

6 Entrants may enter as many times as they wish providing each entry is accompanied with ten tokens and an official entry form.

7 No purchase necessary. Tokens

can be obtained by writing to: *The Times* Customer Services Department, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9NN, please enclose an s.a.e. One token per application received.

8 No cash alternative will be offered.

9 Winners will be allocated the lottery tickets that they win.

10 No correspondence will be entered into and the editor's decision is final and binding in all matters relating to the promotion.

11 *Times Newspapers Ltd* accepts no responsibility for entries that are lost, damaged or delayed in the post. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt.

12 *The Times* reserves the right to suspend, amend or terminate the promotion or the participation in whole or part of any individual(s) at any time, without notice.

13 Winners shall be required to participate in any such publicity as *The Times* requires.

Promoter: *Times Newspapers Limited*, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9NN.

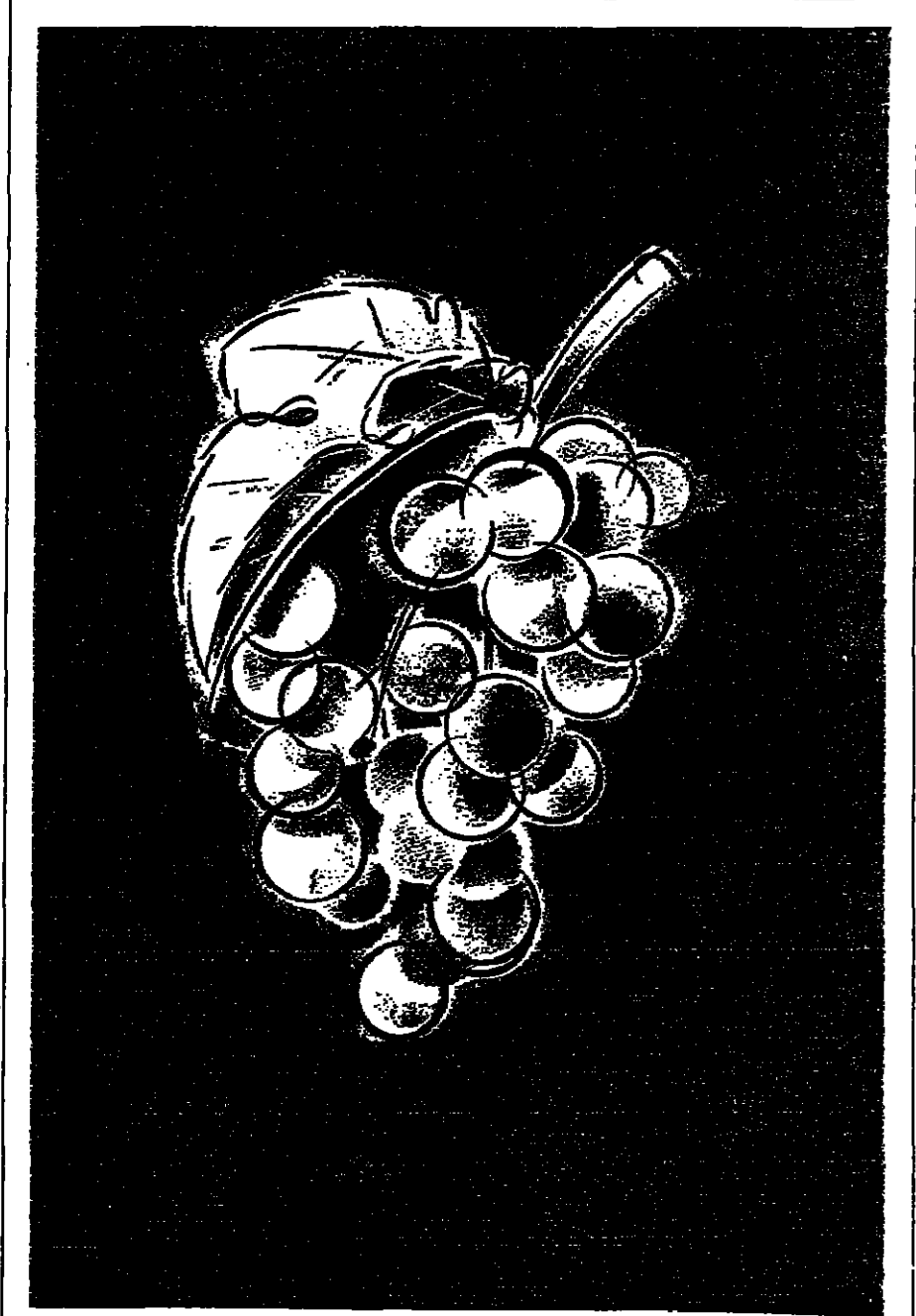
Keep this coupon to send in later with your lottery tokens

ENTRY FORM AND TOKEN

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE



Vive la différence!

difference

ARTS

5

Wickedest thing on the street

I am to the world of fashion roughly what Anna Pasternak is to the Nobel Prize for literature. My wardrobe ceased to change, stylistically speaking, after 1977. In fact, my daily apparel is so far out of fashion that (by some mysterious cyclical process) it is sometimes perceived to be back in again.

"During the emergence of something called 'grunge', for instance, I discovered that my shapeless sweaters and scuffy shoes had somehow turned me into The Wickedest Thing On The Street. Young ladies would stop me in the office, appraise me approvingly from napper to feet, and gurgie 'Hey, I love it!'."

To which there is no answer. Or perhaps there is, but not when you are on deadline. Unfortunately, grunge's 15 minutes of fame soon passed, and so did my brief reign as Fashion King of Wapping.

Now, thanks to a brilliant new book, my life is transformed. I am fashion-conscious, or at least plausible on the subject. The book is Ted Polhemus's *Streetstyle: From Sidewalk to Catwalk*. It isn't published until next week, tied to a

V&A exhibition of post-war fashion, but it is clearly going to be an indispensable bible for bluffers.

Already I can sit in Covent Garden bars, survey the scene, and murmur "retro neo-New Romantic, 1992" in a world-weary, supercilious sort of way. I can discourse with authority on the annual British Tattoo Festival in Dunstable — which, according to Polhemus, perfectly illustrates "the tribal imperative" within us all.

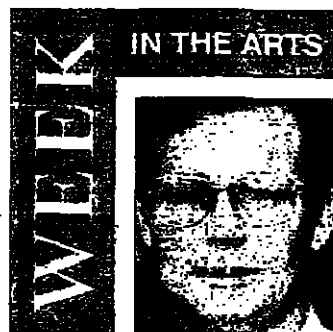
Put me in front of a techno, a cyberpunk or a psychobilly and I will identify each without hesitation. I have memorised chunks of Polhemus's text for use at parties. "Ah yes," I shall say, when the subject of those intriguingly *déshabillées* dancers called "riot grrrrs" comes up, "by mixing such apparently opposing styles, 'riot grrrrs' are constructing a dialogue on feminine sexuality which draws as heavily on the unisex practice of punks as on feminist theory."

Gosh, that will dazzle them in the dining-rooms of Hendon.

It must be admitted that Polhemus does instill a feeling of inadequacy in his, shall we say, more mature readers. "Accidentally! By 1988 this was the word on everyone's lips," he tells us. By 1988, you say? Oh dear, I only ran it across my lips yesterday, and very strange it felt. Still, as yet I am a novice at this fashion game. Go with the flow, that's my new motto! I can already feel the tribal imperative rising within me. And anyway, it's about time that I bought a new sweater. Is C&A open late tonight?

High drama in the West End! No, not up there on the stage. I refer to the outbreak of verbal fisticuffs among the critics. Much more exciting, don't you think?

The scribes have worked themselves into a tizzy over whether



RICHARD MORRISON

there are too many "gay plays" around. First *The Independent* and *Daily Telegraph* carried articles pointing to the "pink" trend. Then Nicholas De Jongh, the *London Evening Standard's* ebullient critic, attacked these "preposterous" colleagues for upholding a "suburban net curtain" morality.

Unfortunately for Nick, his own newspaper immediately stabbed him in the back. The very next day it allowed his predecessor, the still vigorous Milton Shulman, to vent his spleen under the hilariously apocalyptic headline "Stop The Plague Of Pink Plays".

So are there too many gay plays? In narrow business terms the answer must be no. The West End is a viciously commercial place: even the subsidised sector has to watch its box-office carefully. If gay plays were not pulling audiences, they would be off. Perhaps there is no area in which the "pink pound" is so influential as in the theatre. What's more, such playwrights as Tony Kushner, Brad Fraser and Jonathan Harvey produce dramas that are powerful and good, irrespective of their subjects.

Still, there is a danger. The facts may not support the thesis that serious drama is obsessed with

gay lives and Aids-related deaths — but this misconception is nevertheless widely believed. There is a real possibility now that contemporary drama will be perceived as a no-go area for straight people.

That would indeed be a tragedy. After 50 years of state subsidy of the arts, ostensibly designed to increase accessibility, the serious theatre seems perilously close to becoming a ghetto.

And now, from our "wacky world of the avant-garde" department, may I introduce you to *Sewage Art*? You will, I trust, be hurrying down to a sewage works in Winchester next Saturday, for the opening of an exhibition titled "From H2O: You won't? Well, you will be missing something."

With what the organisers describe as a "mythological potency of water and waste in mind", three artists have begun a "res-

idency" at Southern Water's disused Garnier Road pumping station. They will be drawing inspiration, they say, "from Victorian notions of sanitation and moral uprightness, and from present-day preoccupations with cleanliness". Oh dear, I sense a social metaphor coming on.

The three are nothing if not imaginative (aided, of course, by public subsidy from the ever-gullible Southern Arts Board). For instance, a sewage pumping engine is to be "transformed by layers of white gloss and a muslin ceiling into a sterile shrine", and given the name *Virgin*.

The artists describe themselves as "abstract painters who have become disoriented with the stereotype of the artist working in isolation". How going to work in a disused sewage station overcomes the problem of isolation is something I leave you to ponder over your breakfast. Incidentally, I've got an ominous patch of rising damp in my kitchen. Do you think, if I draped the whole thing in white muslin and called it *Ancestral Shadow*, I could get an Arts Council grant for it?

Canvassing for Britain

PARIS EXHIBITIONS: The French have learnt that we produce art too, says John Russell Taylor

In the long and chequered story of relations between France and Britain, there is one thing the British can certainly congratulate themselves on, even if it is not very flattering: we know a lot more about French art than the French know about ours. Indeed, the very idea of D'Outre-Manche, the major new show this autumn at the Louvre, is curious, to French and British alike. It is a survey of British art, from Elizabeth to Victoria, from French public collections.

In fact, there is more than might be supposed, but the show is a real ragbag. The largest amount, and probably most of the best, is in the Louvre itself, and even there, the catalogue frankly admits, it has been more a matter of accident and random benefactions than a consistent buying policy. The first important British work acquired seems to have been *Benjamin Franklin* by *la Duchesse d'Angoulême* in 1849, a subject from French history painted by an honorary Frenchman. Not until the 1960s did an important late Turner, a Fuseli, a Wright of Derby and a Zoffany enter the collection.

Elsewhere in France, things seem to have been equally haphazard. Bordeaux, perhaps because of its old alliance with England, seems to come out best, and we are told that the Museum of the French Revolution at Vizille has just this year made a promising start by acquiring two British works relevant to its theme, Maria Cosway's *The Death of Miss Graham* and Sir William Hamilton's *Marie Antoinette*.



La mort de Germanicus by Nicolas Poussin (1627)

nette *Led to the Scaffold*, neither of which is in the show.

As it is, the show seems unduly bulked out with prints after important British paintings and a roomful of Romney sketchbook material — interesting but disproportionate. There are some respectable works by Reynolds — including one once famous, *The Infant Samuel at Prayer*, which was acquired by a French collector as far back as 1778 — as well as others by Gainsborough, Lawrence and Stubbs. But very rapidly one gets the feeling of splashing around in the shallows.

There is no doubt that the Musée Carnavalet does better with its reflections on *le style anglais*, *Les Anglais à Paris au 19e Siècle*, by choosing a lightweight subject which it has the resources to study in depth. It is largely, though not entirely, a case of "as others see us". Clearly the British were a constant source of

wonder and amusement to French caricaturists from the first moments, in the aftermath of the Napoleonic wars, that French women allegedly took a prurient interest in what was (or wasn't) under a Highland soldier's kilt. The English *millord* is seen strutting round, with his awful, dowdy womenfolk, or chatting up glamorous Parisiennes of dubious morals. But in this area the French got as good as they gave: the excesses of the French capital offered English caricaturists ample scope. And there were even British painters, such as Thomas Shotter Boys and William Wynd, who painted Paris with true admiration and affection.

The two French painters celebrated in grand style this autumn, Gustave Caillebotte, who died in 1894, and Nicolas Poussin, who was born in 1594, could hardly be more different.

Caillebotte, until very recently, has seemed like the also-ran, among prominent Impressionists. He was always there, ready with the organising ability and personal diplomacy necessary to mount the successive Impressionist exhibitions. He was friend to all and patron to more than a few. As an artist he was largely self-taught.

However, Caillebotte was clearly a very serious painter indeed, who went his own way and followed his own obsessions with a fine disregard for what anyone else was doing. Stylistically he is a sort of bridge between Manet and Degas on the one hand, who had little truck with *plein-air* painting, and Monet, Renoir and Pissarro on the other, who made it a shibboleth. He is as



Satan and Beelzebub by Thomas Lawrence, from D'Outre-Manche at the Louvre

good as any at catching a certain fall of the light, a certain sparkle on the water. But he is interested in more permanent, monumental effects than that. He is obsessed with perspective, an obsession which goes right from the amazing early interiors, through the superb townscapes such as *Rue de Paris, temps de pluie*, to the late pictures of his own gardens at Petit Gennevilliers, across the Seine from Argenteuil. He died at the age of 45 — a fact that makes this body of work even more impressive.

Poussin lived until his seventies, had a triumphant career loaded with honours, and has always been regarded as one of the peaks of French

art. The chance offered by the 400th anniversary of his birth for a giant survey is taken with gusto at the Grand Palais (around the corner from Caillebotte): this is no doubt the largest show since that at the Louvre in 1960.

It is a grand academic exhibition that progresses steadily along the middle of the highway. The most controversial it gets is in catalogue essays outlining the history of such questions as whether Poussin was more Italian than French. Naturally since this is a French show, the answer seems to be that he is now felt to belong very decisively to French art.

It is not only a French show, however. For good historical

reasons Britain is so well supplied with major Poussins that it can hardly be excluded, and sure enough, the Royal Academy has fully collaborated, and the show will be seen at the RA in January.

● D'Outre-Manche, Musée du Louvre, Rue de Rivoli (40 20 51 51), Wednesday 9am-9.15pm, Thursday-Monday 9am-5.15pm, until December 19.

● Les Anglais à Paris au 19e Siècle, Musée Carnavalet, 23 Rue de Sevigné (42 72 21 13), Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5.45pm, until December 11.

● Gustave Caillebotte / Nicolas Poussin, Grand Palais, 3 Avenue du Général Eisenhower (44 13 17 17), Wednesday 10am-10pm, Thursday-Sunday 10am-8pm until (Caillebotte) January 9; (Poussin) January 2.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

MARK BRICKMAN

Profession: Theatre director

Age: 34

Distinguishing features: Looks ten years his own junior. Gently spoken with gusts of laughter.

Productions: From *Hamlet* performed in a turn-of-the-century theatre on the edge of the Brazilian jungle with the Actors Touring Company (of which Brickman became artistic director when he was 25); to *A View from the Bridge* at the Sheffield Crucible (where he was artistic director at the age of 30); to *Eugene O'Neill* touring the Highlands and Islands, including performances in Scout huts, for Scottish Opera.

His latest: *Great Expectations* for the Oxford Stage Company, his own expressionistic adaptation of Dickens.

A family history of showmanship? There was a great great uncle who ran two theatres, one now the Camden Palais. His brother is a magician as was his grandfather. Brickman has not employed magic yet but, he says, "as children we were deeply involved in it. There were loads of books flying around."

Playing around: He collected Victorian toy theatres as a youngster. "Relatives used to boo and hiss my ghastly Christmas performances." He acted at school in Wimbledon and directed at university — "small grotesque pieces to scandalise the Cambridge establishment". At that stage, he got frustrated with the messy changeability of theatre and desired more artistic control. Right on cue, he won a Fulbright scholarship to the New York Film School.

Returning to Britain: He worked as a runner, a researcher, "then I thought, 'Oh my God, this'll take 20 years. And moreover, I can just go into a room with stage actors and have something to show for it.'"

Theatre, take two: Hey presto, he won the Regional Theatre Trainee Director Award. This deposited him in Farnham ("which drove me bonkers"), whence he sallied out to the Warehouse, Croydon, then to the ATC. "That was wonderful: ensemble work and travelling with a fascinating repertoire." The Crucible was less heavenly. "I don't think I'm temperamentally suited to running an institution. I like the flexibility of freelancing and small companies."

He got out after a little more than a year. "I kicked away a career ladder and got on with enjoying directing."

On his work: "I've been interested in epic, poetic, imagistic theatre. I'd like to do more contemporary work: tap into what's in the air. If I've got any sense of where I'm going, it's probably into directing-writing, ideally both in film and theatre."

On himself: "Oh God. I sort of bumble along."

KATE BASSETT



THE ARTS

■ DELACROIX

Le Voyage au Maroc. Delacroix first arrived in Morocco when he was 34. The impact of the scenes he saw there remained powerful for the rest of his life. Institut du Monde Arabe, 1 Rue des Fossés Saint-Bernard (40 51 38 38), until January 15.

Occasionally straightforward, often loaded with symbolic detail, they are completely individual.

Centre Georges Pompidou, Rue Rambuteau (44 78 13 33), until October 31.

■ VOLTAIRE ET L'EUROPE

The principal exhibition in the celebrations of the tercentenary of Voltaire's birth, with more than 280 items, including portraits. Musée de la Monnaie de Paris, 11 Quai Conti (40 46 55 35), until January 8.

■ ANTONIN ARTAUD

At the end of his life, the writer, dramatist and inventor of Theatre of Cruelty started making large, very free drawings of people.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

"So intent are the animators and writers on giving the lions 'dignity' that they actually give them very little else: wit, charm, personality. Dignity — particularly the male kind — acts as a dead weight on this film, dragging it down to plodding, paternalistic pedantry..."

Julie Burchill on Disney's *The Lion King* — in *The Culture*, *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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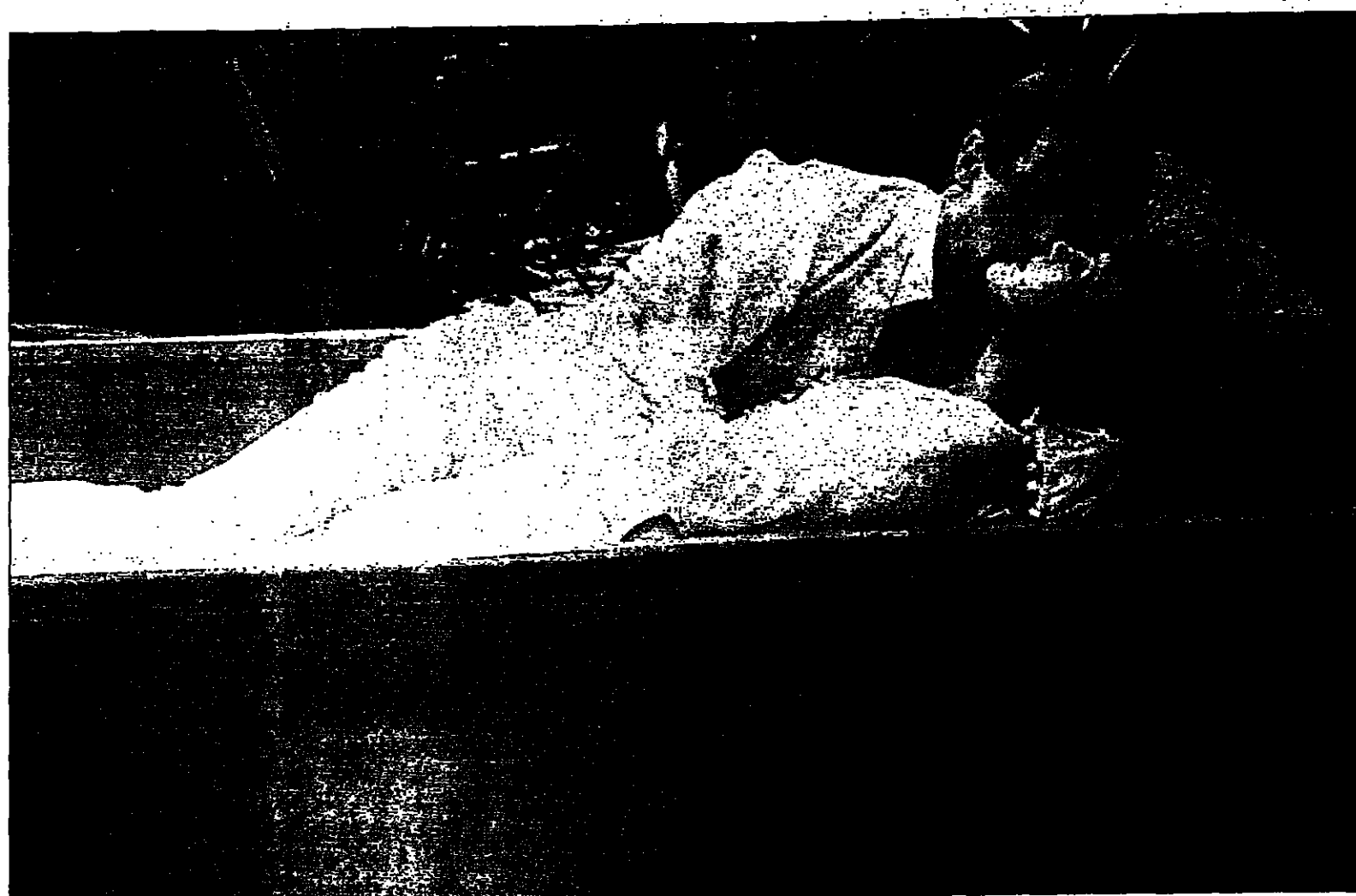
'Give me a girl at an impressionable age and she is mine for life'

REDUCED PRICE PREVIEWS FROM 19 OCTOBER

STRAND THEATRE

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Ticketmaster: 071 344 4444
Group Sales Box Office: 071 930 6123

NEW ON VIDEO: A poet tangled in a tragic marriage; Depardieu unravels a murder

A doomed relationship: Willem Dafoe as T. S. Eliot and Miranda Richardson as his first wife, Vivienne, in Brian Gilbert's absorbing *Tom & Viv*

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

BABIES: Jonathan Harvey's clever if chaotic comedy, set at a schoolgirl's birthday party, where sexual longings get out of hand. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071 730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm. Until Oct 22.

BEAUTIFUL THING: West End transfer for Jonathan Harvey's award-winning and touching play about teenage love, gay and straight, on a London council estate. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071 836 5123). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR: Clare Higgins and Hanneke Water play two schoolteachers accused of being lovers by a traitor. Lifford Hall, SE1 (071 926 2252). Today, 2.15 and 7.30pm.

DANCING ON BLACKWATER: Chicago-born Bonnie Greer's play for Black Theatre Co-operative explores the attempts by two sisters to escape the damage done by their mother's suicide during their childhood. Watlington, Longwell Road, East Croydon (081 880 4060). Tue-Sat, 8pm. Sun, 5pm. Until Oct 16. Tour follows.

THE HOSTAGE: Spirited revival of Brendan Behan's subversive romp, black around the edges, written at a time (1958) when "the Troubles" could be staged as pathetic jokes. Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071 636 8891). Today, 3pm and 7.15pm.

JOKING APART: Alan Ayckbourn's black comedy about a "golden couple" whose glimmering lives are upturned by a series of disasters. A good revival by Robin Herford. Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081 890 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Oct 22.

MOBY DICK: David Calder plays the one-legged Captain in Gerry Mulligan's production for the RSC. Visually fine but ultimately unconvincing. P.L. Barbican Centre, EC2 (071 636 8891). Today, 3pm and 7.15pm.

THE MORTAL ASH: Richard Cawston's choral portrait of a Yorkshire family, victims of a hate campaign. Perceptive and warm; well worth seeing. Bush, Chesham Road, Uxbridge (0494 741 2333). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Oct 22.

NEVILLE'S ISLAND: Tony Slatery heads a strong cast playing a quartet of

businessmen disastrously lost in the fog during a team-building exercise in Lifford Hall, SE1 (071 926 2252). Today, 2.15 and 7.30pm.

THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS: "Jake" and "Elwood" give two hours of soul, blues and rhythm 'n' blues. Lights, noise, good music, celebrating all. Comedy, Panton St, SW1 (071 369 1731). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. Until Oct 22.

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND: Specially selected production of the hit Broadway musical, transferred from Birmingham Rep. Showbiz and Caribbean folk-tale proved to be a successful marriage. Lifford Hall, SE1 (071 926 2252). Today, 3pm and 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

ONLY THE LONELY: Lany Branson in Bill Kenwright's musical on the life and songs of Rex O'Riordan. Piccadilly, Denman St, W1 (071 369 1731). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8.30pm; mat Fri 5.30pm, Sat 5pm.

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY: Complex staging of Wilde's famous tale. Striking performances by Maria Aiken, Benedict Barnes, Bette Bourne and Tom Post-Smith. Lyric, King St, Hammersmith, W6 (081 741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Oct 15.

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WILDS: Trailing performance by Andrew O'Sullivan in a strong, tough and vivid production by Lynne Parker of Synge's comic masterpiece. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071 359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm.

THE SEAGULL: Judd Derrich rules the roost, heading a splendid cast in Pato Berra's new version. National (Owl), South Bank, SE1 (071 926 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm; Mon, 7.15pm.

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG: Limited run here for the Greenwich Theatre production of Wendy Wasserstein's 100 cosy years 'n' laughter drama. With Maureen Lipman, Janet Suzman and Linda Bullington. Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (071 926 7818). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm and 5.30pm.

TWO WEEKS WITH THE QUEEN: Play for family audiences adapted from Morris Gleitzman's excellent story of a 12-year-old boy who learns about death and the value of family love. National (Comet), South Bank, SE1 (071 926 2252). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm.

WAX: Paines Plough's production of the seriously weird tale of Madame Tussaud. Shona Morris takes the role in Lifford Hall, SE1 (071 926 2252). Today, 2.30pm; mat Sat, 4.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS: Arcadia, Haymarket (071 930 8800). Blood Brothers, Phoenix (071 967 1041). Beverly Hills, Phoenix (071 934 1317). Caffe New, London (071 405 0072).

Copacabana, Prince of Wales (071 839 5972). Crazy for You, Prince Edward (071 734 8851). Don't Dress for Dinner, Duchess (071 494 5070).

Five Guys Named Moe, Lyric (071 494 5069). Gypsy, Dominion (071 416 6060). An Inspector Calls, Alhambra (071 436 6404).

Lady Windermere's Fan, Alhambra (071 436 6404). Les Misérables, Palace (071 434 0808). The Little Prince, Wyndham's (071 887 1115).

Miss Saigon, Theatre Royal (071 494 5400). The Mousetrap, St Martin's (071 836 1443).

The Phantom of the Opera, Her Majesty's (071 494 5400). She Loves Me, Savoy (071 436 8888).

Starlight Express, Apollo Victoria (071 828 9955). Sunset Boulevard, Adelphi (071 344 0055).

The Taming of the Shrew, Theatre Royal (071 494 5400). Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

TOM & VIV

Entertainment, 15, 1994

POOR T. S. Eliot and his first wife Vivienne, locked in a doomed relationship that even intense love cannot save. Willem Dafoe as Eliot plays the passive, bottled-up observer; Miranda Richardson less off fireworks as Viv, whose medical problems make her a liability as her husband becomes a literary star. An absorbing rendering of Michael Hastings's play, directed by Brian Gilbert.

BUFFET FROID

Art House, 18, 1997

HOW did Gérard Depardieu's lost switchblade knife land in the stomach of a dying Metro passenger? That is only the first mystery in a delicious

ly cool and surreal thriller, one

of the best films to come from director Bertrand Blier. Soon Depardieu is scampering about town with his wife's murderer (Jean Carmet), a widow (Geneviève Page), and a bizarre police inspector played by Blier's father, Bernard. As the bodies pile up, ingredients of the French police are gleefully lampooned. A delight.

IKIRU

Connaisseur, PG, 1952

NO banishing samurai in this lengthy, uplifting Kurosawa classic, also known as *Living or To Live*: the focus stays tight on a lowly civil servant, whose drab existence, perversely, becomes rejuvenated when he learns he is dying of stomach

cancer. Avoiding the obvious

pitfalls of stark gloom and glib sentimentality, Kurosawa steers a delicate course between melancholy, off-beat humour and pride in man's humanity.

THE PHANTOM

CARRIAGE

Redemption, PG, 1920

VICTOR Sjöström's famous silent film finds its way onto video through a company best known for its lurid sex thrillers. No matter: the soundtrack's piano compilation is only mildly irritating, while the tinted print is good enough to let the superimposed images of Death driving the phantom carriage along foggy roads and rocky shores cast their eerie spell. But this is no

full-blown supernatural tale

strip the film of its fancy effects and intricate flashbacks, and you get a Swedish melodrama about the perils of drink. Fascinating, though not quite the classic it once seemed.

SERIAL MOM

Guid, 18, 1994

SERIAL killers generally offer excuses, though rage over someone failing to reward a video of *Annie* is a new one. Kathleen Turner's homicidal director-actor Takeshi Kitano could make this arrestingly shot and quirky blood bath, pierced with lyrical interludes. An earlier film, *Boiling Point*, is also available: a similarly doctored gangster yarn with violent mood swings, and another of Kitano's deadpan nihilistic thugs.

ates enough to guarantee

happy viewing.

SONATINE

ICA Projects, 18, 1993

ONE minute bullets fly and bodies fall with icy brutality. The next, the survivors find their time, larking around with guns, seaweed and a soft-drink can on a beautiful beach. Only cult Japanese director-actor Takeshi Kitano could make this arrestingly shot and quirky blood bath, pierced with lyrical interludes. An earlier film, *Boiling Point*, is also available: a similarly doctored gangster yarn with violent mood swings, and another of Kitano's deadpan nihilistic thugs.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW RELEASES

FORREST GUMP (12). Endearing if indulgent odyssey through post-war America, ideal for kids and adults alike. Tom Hanks. Director, Robert Zemeckis. Empire (0800 888811) MGM Baker Street (071 336 9772) Pathéman Road (071 330 3338) Trocadero (071 434 0031) Renard (071 337 8402) Nottingham Hall (071 337 8402) Screenvision (071 337 8402) Phoenix (081 883 2233) UCI Whiteleys (071 792 3332)

FUNNY MAN (18). Tinsome low-budget British horror comic, with Tim Lincecum as a real-life ghost in the flesh. Writer-director, Simon Spradling. MGM Baker Street (071 336 9772) Pathéman Road (071 330 3338) Trocadero (071 434 0031) Renard (071 337 8402) Nottingham Hall (071 337 8402) Screenvision (071 337 8402) Phoenix (081 883 2233) UCI Whiteleys (071 792 3332)

THE LION KING (U). African lion cub almost loses his father's throne. Much impact but charming Disney cartoon, not meant for tiny tots. Odéon Leicester Sq (0426 915837)

MINA TANNERBAUM (12). Romantic Bohemian and Elia Zbinden arrives in Paris. Writer-director, Martine Dugovion. Curzon Mayfair (071 465 8885)

CURRENT

CITY SUCKERS (12). Overly depicted sequel to the 1991 hit, with Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern, Jon Lovitz and Jack Palance. Paul Wollard directs. MGM Chelmsford (071 352 5098)

ODENSE: KENNINGTON (071 434 0031) Odense: Kennington (0426 914666) Swiss Cottage (0426 914098) Warner (071 437 4343)

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER (12). Hanson Ford lights Government duplicity and Cabinet's (dis)crepancies. Philip Morris directs the best Jack Ryan adventure so far. Empire (0800 888811) MGM: Fulham Road (071 370 2638) Trocadero (071 434 0031) Plaza (0800 888897)

COLON OF NIGHT (18). Tawdry, unconvincing action thriller, with Bruce Willis as a therapist dogged by a murderer. With Jane March. MGM Trocadero (071 434 0031) Odense: Kennington (0426 914666) Macclesfield (0426 915837)

DAZZED AND CONFUSED (18). High school kids of 1970s: drug, fight and philosophy. Mike Dische directs. Follow-up to *Stutter* from director Richard Linklater. Chelmsford (071 352 5098) Nottingham Hall (071 337 8402) Screenvision (071 337 8402) Phoenix (081 883 2233) UCI Whiteleys (071 792 3332)

THE FLINTSTONES (U). Hollow, noisy live-action treatment of the TV

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and others indicated with the symbol (*) on release across the country

cartoon set in Stone Age suburbia, with John Goodman, Brian Levant directs. MGM Trocadero (071 434 0031)

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL (12). Mike Newson's smart comedy with Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell. MGM Haymarket (071 336 9772) Odense: Kennington (0426 914666) Macclesfield (0426 915837) Swiss Cottage (0426 914098) Plaza (0800 888897) Warner (071 437 4343)

GETTYSBURG (PG). Marathon TV-style account of the Civil War battle. No point of view, but quite impressive once the armies start fighting. With Jeff Daniels, Tom Berenger and Martin Sheen. Rankin F. Maxwell directs. MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071 436 6279)

THE HUSSECKER PROXY (PG). Rick becomes company boss. Play comic pastiche from the Coen brothers, with Tim Robbins and Paul Newman. Curzon West End (071 439 4805)

LADYBIRD LADYBIRD (18). Volatile multi-media musical drama from Ken Loach, based on a true story, with a powerful performance by Cressa Rock. Lumiere (071 858 1891)

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18). Engagingly amoral tale of sex, power and \$700,000, with Linda Fiorentino as the femme fatale to end all. Director, John Dahl. Metro (071 437 0757) MGM: Fulham Road (071 370 2638) Trocadero (071 434 0031) Plaza (0800 888897)

THE MASK (PG). Strange mask turns mild bank employee into a wickedly clever demon. Inevitable vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, fled with the anti-apocalypse 1940s cartoon. Trocadero (071 434 0031) Panton Street (071 330 0631) Trocadero (071 434 0031)

MAVERICK (PG). Mel Gibson as the TV Western conman. Disappointing summer fun, with Jodie Foster and James Garner. Director, Richard Donner. Warner (071 437 4343)

MR JONES (15). Contained romantic drama about a manic depressive (Richard Gere) and his doctor (Lena Olin). Director, Mike Figgis. MGM Panton Street (071 439 0631)

LE PAFRUM D'YVONNE (18). Elegant but empty re-make from French sensualist Patrice Leconte, with Hippolyte Girardot and Jean-Pierre Marcell. Curzon Phoenix (071 330 3338)

PEEPING TOM (18). Michael Powell's voyeuristic horror film of 1960, allegedly clever, dull and unpleasant. With Carl Borlson and Anna Massey. MGM Phoenix (071 437 3961)

THE PHANTOM (15). Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill, Harvey Keitel. MGM Swiss Cottage (071 436 4470) Everyman (071 436 1252)

THE RED SQUIRREL (18). Fresh and lively anti-machismo comic by rang Spanish director Julio Medem. With Emma Suarez and Narciso Benítez. Metro (071 437 0757) Renard (071 337 8402)

SCHINDLER'S LIST (18). German businessman (Liam Neeson) saves his Jewish workers from the camps. Impressive, grown-up epic from Steven Spielberg co-stars Ralph Fiennes and Ben Kingsley. Plaza (071 437 1234)

SPEED (15). Enjoyable package of thrills, with Keanu Reeves as the SWAT team daredevil faced with a bomb on an LA bus. With Sandra Bullock and Dennis Hopper. Odense: Kennington (0426 914666) Swiss Cottage (0426 914098) Warner (071 437 4343)

THREE COLOURS: WHITE (15). Kieślowski's marvellous comic portrait of love, revenge and Polish capitalism. With Julie Delpy. MGM Swiss Cottage (071 436 4470) Whiteleys (071 332 3332)

TRUE LIES (15). Schwarzenegger saves the world from Middle East terrorists. But what about his marriage? Over-the-top action, over-the-top and all. Curzon: Director, James Cameron. Empire (0800 888811) MGM: Fulham Road (071 370 2638) Trocadero (071 434 0031) Plaza (0800 888897) UCI Whiteleys (071 792 3332)

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN (15). Serious, well-loved drama about sexual abuse, discrimination and all. With Meg Ryan and Andy Garcia. MGM Chelmsford (071 352 5098) Odense: Kennington (0426 914666) Swiss Cottage (0426 914098) UCI Whiteleys (071 792 3332) Warner (071 437 4343)

Stalls, circle or living room?

The recent Live '94 exhibition at

Earls Court demonstrated just how popular home cinema is becoming. There were all kinds of fascinating displays, ranging from new multimedia products, including

Panasonic's spectacular silver-disc system 3DO, to an eerily effective technique of suspending an image in mid-air. The longest queues, though, were not for the virtual-reality roller-coaster simulator or the games machines, they were for the line of home cinema stands. Home cinema products

littered every major hi-fi manufacturer's display — wide-screen televisions, including the first Pal-Plus broadcasts, decoders, amplifiers, speaker systems. You could have spent a small fortune — but you did not need to. Equipping your own home cinema can be both easier and cheaper than you might expect.

Although the effect works best with high-quality, large or even wide-screen televisions, they are not essential. Even an ordinary picture can be greatly enhanced by surround sound, and there are several ways to add it.

Perhaps the easiest is to buy a television ready equipped: an increasingly wide choice of models is available from manufacturers such as Sony, Panasonic, Hitachi and Ferguson, at only a couple of hundred pounds more than equivalent stereo models. Typically they look like normal sets with side-mounted loudspeakers, but come with an inbuilt Dolby Pro-Logic decoder, extra amplification and another pair of very small speakers

to carry the rear channel information, via easily concealed wires. These usually sound adequate but unexceptional. More advanced models may have a central dialogue speaker or bass-boosting "subwoofer" in the television stand.

If you are not ready to change your television, you can buy stands with the same kind of system built in, ranging from the substantial Philips AV1440 at £579 to the little Goodmans GHCI0. This only offers a stripped-down

Hardware makers are giving home cinema the hard sell, but it need not cost the earth

surround effect and basic sound quality, but at about £200, it makes a cheap and cheerful entry into the field.

For higher-quality sound, though, you need to add proper audio equipment. The simplest way is to buy a mid-level system ready equipped. Aiwa, Kenwood, Pioneer and others offer Pro-Logic facilities on more expensive systems (although rear speakers are often an optional extra), and cheaper models will be appearing soon. As best

achieved with a component system. You can centre this on one of the many excellent surround-sound amplifiers now appearing, from "budget" models at about £400 from Kenwood, Sherwood and Yamaha, among others, to £1,000 models such as Adcom's and the impressive new Arcam.

An enormous choice of co-ordinated speaker packages is available, from the

inexpensive Goodmans' Wharfedale, and JPR to KEF, Celestion and B & W — too many to list. If your present system suits you, you could add speakers and a stand-alone decoder such as Mordaunt-Short's (£300) — like most, it includes extra amplifiers — and switch them in or out as needed. However, matching them to your existing sound can be tricky, and you may prefer to consult a dealer.

Finally, the seriously rich or the pipe-dreamer may like to consider the ultimate, a THX system. This is not a new technology but a quality standard developed at the instigation of George Lucas, creator of *Star Wars* (and named after his first feature *THX 1138*), to improve cinema sound. B & W and others make THX-quality home systems, and the effect is certainly unforgettable. So, unfortunately, is the price: they start at more than £4,000, and they will not match everybody's listening conditions. Far better to choose horses for courses — a system to suit what you watch and where you watch it.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

What is it that has made 44,000 people sign up with the Theatre Club? The opportunity to take advantage of offers such as these

Two years old, and growing

THE THEATRE CLUB

THE Theatre Club is two years old. Since the club was launched, more than 44,000 people have joined, making it the largest club of its kind in the country. Sir Derek Jacobi, the president of the club, says: "The club has become such an established partner in the theatre. When it was launched we had no idea such a scheme would work. Now its members visit theatres all over the country. I think that success speaks for itself."

Every week the club arranges exclusive offers for club members, ranging from money-saving discounts, theatre-dinner and weekend packages, to opportunities to meet the stars, directors and writers at special members' evenings. Wherever you live you will find club offers at a theatre in your region.

Membership costs £12.50 per year and entitles you to buy two tickets for any club event. New credit card members will be given a temporary membership number to enable them to start booking tickets immediately.

FOLLOW A RAKE'S PROGRESS

SOME people's lives lend themselves naturally to drama. One such was John Wilmot, Second Earl of Rochester and the 17th century's ultimate rake, the inspiration for two plays being toured by the Out of Joint company in collaboration with the Royal Court theatre.

George Etherege's *The Man of Mode*, written in 1675 and recognised as the first of Great Restoration plays, revolves around the devilish but angelic Dorimant (based on Rochester), who is distracted from his round of sexual intrigues by the beguiling heiress Harriet. The second play is a new work, *The Libertine*, by Stephen Jeffreys. It takes a comic look at Rochester's amazing life of extreme contradictions — a royalist but anti-monarchist; an atheist, but death-bed convert; a lyric poet and pornographer — and at his desperate attempts to shake off his rakish image when he falls in love with the actress Elizabeth Barry. Theatre Club members can see the plays at these venues:

Jason Watkins and David Westhead the dastardly Dorimant in George Etherege's *The Man of Mode*

WARWICK
Arts Centre
Oct 20-21 (*The Libertine*);
Oct 24 (*The Man of Mode*).
Tickets £6.95 (normally
£9.95 and £11.50). Tel 0203
524524

OXFORD
Playhouse
Nov 8 (*The Man of Mode*);
Nov 9 (*The Libertine*). Book
for both and save £2.50 on
each (normally £9.50 and
£10.50). Tel 0865 798600

CANTERBURY
Marlowe Theatre
Nov 15 (*The Man of Mode*);

Nov 16 (*The Libertine*). Two
tickets for the price of one
(normally £6 to £13). Tel
0227 767246

CHICHESTER
Festival Theatre
Nov 29 (*The Man of Mode*);
Nov 30 (*The Libertine*). Two
tickets for the price of one
(normally £7.50 to £15.50).
Tel 0243 781312

LONDON
Royal Court Theatre
Dec 7 (*The Libertine*); Dec
14 (*The Man of Mode*). Two
tickets for the price of one
(normal- ly £18). Tel 071-730 1745

LONDON

Chelsea Centre Theatre

Oct 11-13, 18
● TAMASIN Grieg stars in
Pete Lawson's new play *Burn-
ing Houses*, which opens up a
whole new area of sexual
politics — the sexual attraction
between a lesbian and a
gay man. Two tickets for the
price of one (normally £7.50).
Tel 071-332 1967

EDINBURGH

Playhouse

Oct 14-15
● ANTHONY Newley and
Stratford Johns star in the
musical *Scrooge*, based on
Charles Dickens's *A Christ-
mas Carol*. Save £5 on all
tickets (normally £13.50 to
£20.50). Tel 031-557 6520

YORK

Theatre Royal

Oct 11-14; 31-Nov 11 (excluding
Saturdays)
● THE Wars of the Roses
combines four of Shake-
speare's turbulent history
plays — *Henry VI Parts 1-3*
and *Richard III*. Save £3 on
tickets (normal prices £7.50 to
£11) for each play and receive

ARTS

7

RECORDINGS: Sax in the Renaissance; an eccentric bash at Beethoven; glorious gospel voices; Suede set the year's rock benchmark

Stephen Pettit

HILLIARD
ENSEMBLE/GARBAREK
Official
ECM New Series EGM 1525
(445 360-2)***

THIS recording has already soared up various charts since its issue last month, and I think it rather wonderful. The Hilliard Ensemble and the Norwegian jazz saxophonist Jan Garbarek have taken a sequence of medieval and Renaissance pieces, polyphonic and otherwise, and submitted them to Garbarek's spontaneous improvisations.

What emerges is, in one sense, a disc of new pieces based on old ones. But in another sense the old pieces remain intact. These are simply fresh interpretations, and Garbarek's contributions are all reaction, not so much embellishment or commentary as eloquent embodiment in sound (and what movingly expressive sounds he makes) of what this music does to him.

And that is what moves me, for Garbarek's meditations grow not from any self-serving exhibitionism, but from the very heart and soul of the originals.

His sensual, meditative playing, often taking its cue from the voice most resembling the saxophone in timbre and pitch, the counterpoint of David James, doubles the intensity of a piece such as *Crisol de Morales* ("Pere mül Domine", plucked from his Requiem setting).

In fact, that piece is heard here three times, twice at each end of the disc — with input from Garbarek and once without, the implication being that in the central performance we can, as it were, silently improvise for ourselves.

Other named composers whose polyphony is represented include Pierre de la Rue, Dufay and, from nearly a millennium ago, Perotinus, while elsewhere plainsongs become enriched with new resonances, sometimes with the singers' own added contributions in the form of nasal drones.

The acoustics of the Monastery of St Gerold in Austria are aptly resonant.



Saxophonist Jan Garbarek puts new meaning into medieval and Renaissance pieces

Barry Millington

BEETHOVEN
Piano Concerto in D
BACH
Concerto in D for keyboard
and strings, BWV1054

Mustonen/Deutsche
Kammerphilharmonie/
Saraste
Decca 443 118-2*

THE 27-year-old Finnish pianist Olli Mustonen has something of a reputation for quirkiness, and this is nothing if not a quirky disc, beginning with the works featured. Beethoven himself made the arrangement of his Violin Concerto for piano and or-

chestra, and although it is never likely to supplant the original, it is worth the occasional outing — if only for its cadenzas. The Bach concerto was also transcribed from violin to keyboard by the composer, who transposed it down a tone, from E major to D, in the process.

The cadenzas for the Beethoven are interesting because, whereas the composer wrote none for the original Violin Concerto, he did write those for the transcription. That for the first movement introduces a march with obligato timpani, proving once again that however bizarre the solutions proposed for such cadenzas, it is difficult to beat Beethoven at his own game. When Mus-

tonen makes the third-movement cadenza sound like something out of the celebrated Tchaikovsky concerto, however, even the forward-looking Beethoven might have been taken aback.

Mustonen's eccentric performing style has more serious consequences. At first one can relish the crystalline tone and the rhythmic verve, even while questioning whether such mannered phrasing makes truly musical sense. But by the finale patience is exhausted. Not only is the phrasing of the rondo theme perversely lopsided, but the tone is now merely hard, so that the accents grate on the ear. Fortunately or unfortunately, Jukka-Pekka Saraste and his orchestra, whose phrasing is characterfully throughout, do not go in for this sort of nonsense, with the result that the soloist is further sidelined.

The other work on the disc fares even worse. With his fortissimo lunges within phrases and off-centre phrasing, Mustonen's account might appeal to those who enjoy the swirly reworkings of Jacques Loussier. But it has little to do with Bach.

OPERA
John Higgins

STRAUSS

Salome
Norman/Witt/Leech/
Morris/Raffaeller/Dresden
Staatskapelle/Ozawa
Philips 432 153-2 (2 CDs)***

PHILIPS has been slow to issue its *Salome*, recorded in Dresden in 1990. One reason may be the strong competition for Richard Strauss's neurosis-filled opera. DG has Studer with Sinopoli (actually made after this Philips version) and EMI fields Behrens with Karajan, drawn from the production which played in Vienna and Salzburg that will not be forgotten by anyone who saw it. Both of these go straight into the *** category.

On Philips, the best is on the second of the two CDs. It begins with a silken, sensuous account of the "Dance of the Seven Veils" from *Ozawa* and the Dresden Staatskapelle. Nothing is oversteered, strictly ballroom. Dresden, after all, was the city chosen by Strauss for the first performance, and the tradition shows in the quality of the playing. Once the dance is over, Philips's star, Jessye Norman, shows herself the great Strauss singer we know her to be. Herod (Walter Raffeiner) is reduced to a gibbering wreck as Salome demands first the head and then the lips of John the Baptist.

This is Norman in full sail: imperious in her demands, sumptuous in voice as her soprano easily dominates Strauss's huge orchestra. Like all great Salomes, Norman sounds totally uninhibited.

But the path to the closing scene is somewhat rockier. The almost harlot quality in Norman's voice hardly allows her to suggest the teenager, bored with court life and curious about the white flesh of the prophet enclosed in Herod's cistern. Studer was marvellous at evoking the capricious adolescent, as indeed was Caballé on record before. Nor does Ozawa convey the *fin de siècle* sickness which fills Herod's court in the way Sinopoli did with the Deutsche Oper, Berlin. Everyone is ill with something: Narraboth with love, Herod with lust, Herodias with jealousy. All is there in the orchestra.

Philips's supporting cast is variable. James Morris's Jokanaan is consistently powerful, whether reverberating in his cistern or preparing the way of the Lord outside it, but Bryn Terfel (DG) showed much more of the young zealot. Richard Leech's Narraboth is outstanding — a clean-cut, besotted moon-calf.

Kerstin Witt exudes a mixture of evil and madness as Herodias. But Walter Raffeiner's Herod, thin in tone, sounds more like an escapee from Wozzeck than the Tetrarch of Judaea.

Take Sinopoli if you want Strauss with all his nerve ends showing or Karajan if you prefer him shimmering and decadent.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

SCHUMANN

Liederkreis Op 39
BRAHMS
Vier ernste Gesänge
Fassbender/Leonskaja
Teldec 9031-74872-2**

THE combination of repertoire speaks volumes; the names speak for themselves. It would take as original and independent a musical thinker as Brigitte Fassbender to place Schumann's *Liederkreis* next to Brahms's *Four Serious Songs*. And when the pianist is Elisabeth Leonskaja, the result is strong stuff.



Fassbender: original

Those who can scarcely wait for Fassbender's latest release will revel in her passionate engagement with the Romantic poetry of Eichendorff as set by Schumann: the full forest horror of "Waldegespräch", the voice almost yelling its terror, and the first song's real weight of solitude.

Those who feel that Fassbender can sometimes kill the thing she loves could argue that some songs are oppressed by an emotional weight greater than they can bear. The fragility of happiness, the sense of the soul hovering over the body, are lost to the all-encompassing darkness of "Intermezzo" and "Mondnacht".

Passing judgment on the Schumann must, then, remain a matter of taste. I challenge anyone, though, to fail to be impressed by her *Vier ernste Gesänge*. The core of live passion and anger of these songs rescues them from any ponderousness, and Fassbender's own commitment is constantly inflamed by the playing of Leonskaja.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Wade In The Water, Vols 1-4
Smithsonian Folkways
SF-40072/5 (distributed by
Koch Int)***

DO NOT be deterred by the unfamiliar names of the performers. Bernice Johnson Reagon's magisterial survey of gospel singing — originally compiled for an American National Public Radio series — forms the most imposing vocal anthology of the year.

For the past 20 years she has been the leader of Sweet Honey In The Rock, the all-female a cappella group which takes its inspiration from both sacred and secular traditions. *Wade In The Water* draws on that experience as well as her work as a curator at the Smithsonian in Washington.

Volume One returns to the 19th-century origins of gospel in the stately "concert spirituals" of the Fisk Jubilee Singers — as interpreted by modern campus choirs and a community group. These tracks, with their austere, Europeanised harmonies and classical cadences, are a revelation.

The pioneering composers of gospel — the prolific Thomas Dorsey chief among them, naturally — are honoured on the stirring third disc, on which Sweet Honey In The Rock make a fleeting appearance. This, and the first volume are the essential purchases for anyone interested in acquiring a grounding in the genre.

Volumes Two and Four, meanwhile, shift the focus to congregational and community styles past and present, from venerable ring shouts to the very fringes of R&B.

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

SUEDE

Dog Man Star
NUDE NUDE 3***

SUEDE's self-titled debut album, released last year, scaled previously unimagined heights of critical acclaim, which makes the task of reviewing *Dog Man Star* rather awkward. What superlatives are left to describe a follow-up album next to which the debut "masterpiece" pales almost to insignificance?

It is not just the songs that make this album such a triumph, although they are brilliant enough. From the sleazy, art-school rock'n'roll of "This Hollywood Life" to the spine-tingling chorus of "The Power", from the macabre, shrieking pile-up of noise at the end of "Daddy's Speeding" to the gorgeous lilt of "The Wild Ones", from the murky,

two-minute drone of "Introducing The Band" to the stately, ten-minute epic "The Asphalt World", it is an album simply teeming with drama, invention and surprises.

But what eventually moulds the collection into something more than the sum of even these extraordinary parts is the way in which songwriters Brett Anderson and the recently departed Bernard Butler distil the sad, seedy zeitgeist of 1990s Britain and turn it into something thrillingly, romantically out of the ordinary.

There is everything from lean guitar riffs to the 40-piece Sinfonia of London orchestra soaring away behind Anderson's heroically overwrought performance on the album's closing track, "Still Life".

If at times it all drifts wildly over the top, that is a small price to pay for such an embarrassment of riches. This is the English rock album against which all others in 1994 will surely come to be judged.

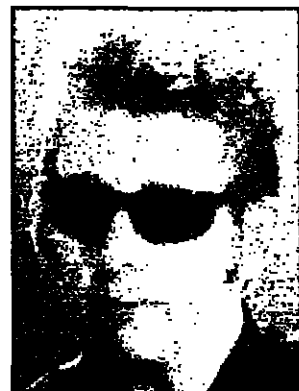
POP SINGLES

David Sinclair

SHANE MACGOWAN
AND THE POPES
"That Woman's Got Me
Drinking"

ZTT ZANC6**

BOOTED out of the Pogues three years ago for unreliable behaviour, Shane MacGowan comes staggering back into the limelight with a performance of typically reckless, wheezing endeavour which knocks spots off anything on the last Pogues album.



MacGowan: reckless

An exuberantly chaotic, soft-shoe shuffle in the classic punk-Celtic vein which he popularised with the Pogues, "That Woman's Got Me Drinking" confirms MacGowan's extraordinary talent for something, although Lord knows it is not singing. Pictured on the cover swathed in a blanket, he looks as if he has returned from the dead, which is virtually what he has done.

* Worth hearing
** Worth considering
*** Worth buying

THE TIMES
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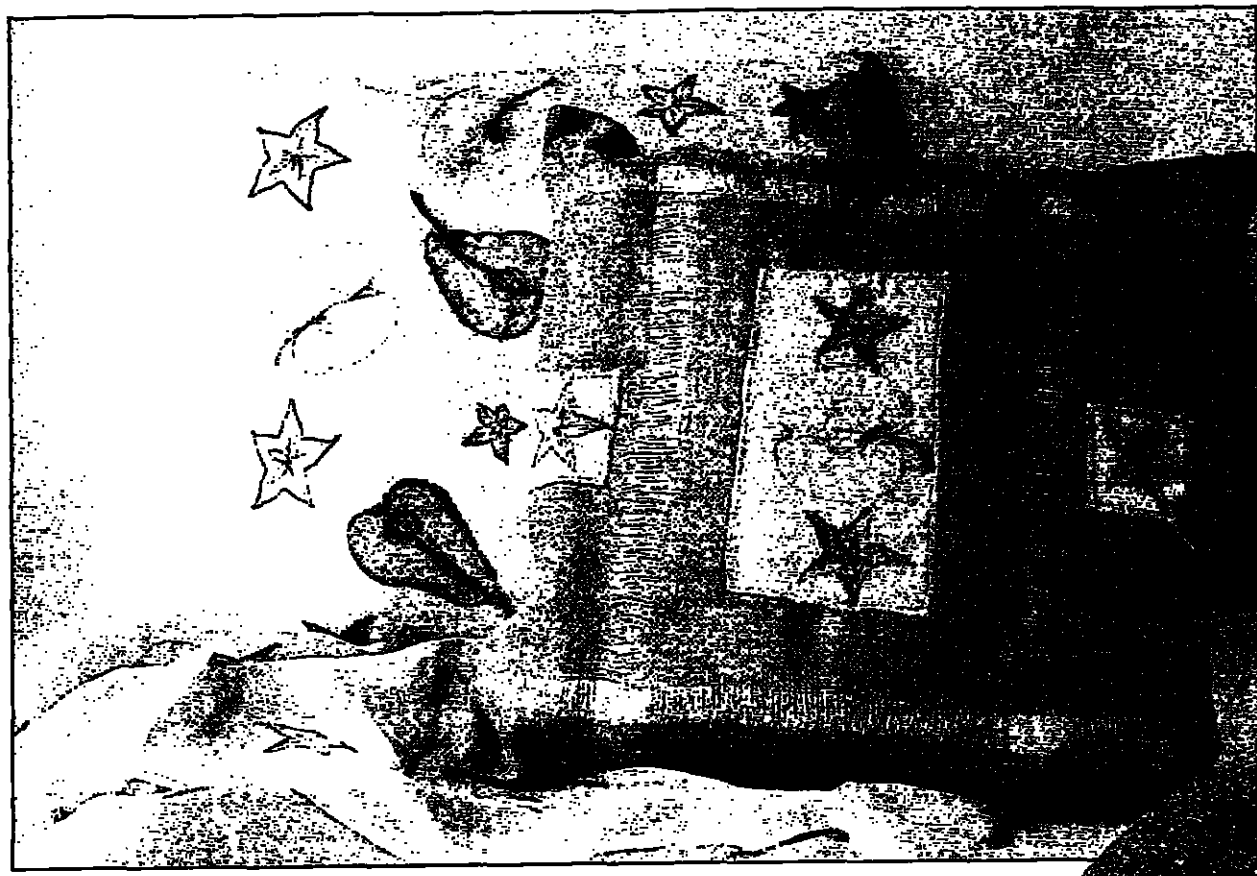
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your business is

All the fun of the fair where crafts come to life



As the famous Chelsea Crafts Fair gets under way, we look at the pick of the crop of this year's top designers who will be exhibiting

The 16th Chelsea Crafts Fair opens next week boasting a record number of craftsmen and women from around Britain showing and selling their wares. A selection committee of Amanda Game, director of the Scottish Gallery in Edinburgh, Ilse Crawford, editor of *Elle Decoration*, potter Peter Starkey, and furniture designer and maker Julianne Dolphin-Wilding picked the 225 exhibitors from more than 900 applicants, hence the high standard and wide diversity of work on show.

The fair runs from October 11 to 23 and is divided into two weeks and two sets of exhibitors. The organisers have been careful to select the same cross-section of crafts to be shown each week.

According to Morris Lathan, head of sales development for the Crafts Council, the fair is an exciting event for both visitor and exhibitor. "For the visitor, it is not only a chance to buy something unique, but to meet the person who made it," he says. "For a lot of the year, the most contact exhibitors get with the outside world is via Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*," Mr Lathan says. "It is great for them to talk to and get feedback from visitors."

Sarah Feather, a new exhibitor, graduated last year from Staffordshire University with a first in design. She specialises in "surface pattern design", and now works from an attic at her parent's home in Ilkley. Ms Feather discovered a way to preserve slices of fruit

and vegetables while studying for her final project, a method which she has since patented and introduced throughout her work.

Using mostly star fruit, pears, apples, kiwi fruit, mangetout, tomatoes and cucumber, Ms Feather encases thin slices of fruit or vegetable between two layers of fabric, usually silk chiffon. She then uses the fabric to make lampshades, pictures, drapes, cushions and necklaces, and says the finished effect is "of fruit floating in fabric".

Her preserving technique remains secret, but all of Ms Feather's early work using fruit, made 18 months ago, is in perfect condition and has kept its colour. Prices for a 15-inch cushion start from £60, from £75 for a lampshade and from £300 for a 7ft drape.

Another first-time exhibitor is Bex Marriot, a book-binder who works from a converted brewery in Lewes, East Sussex. She follows the traditional binding method of sewing and folding sections together and makes the pages and covers from Indian or Nepalese handmade paper and crude or fine leather. She then decorates her books by splashing on acrylic paints or inks, working in collage or stamping on words in relief.

These are books which "people always want to stroke and smell, they are both functional as well as moveable sculptures," Ms Marriot says. Particularly covetable are the sketch books (from £35), photo albums (from £65), and wedding albums (from £75), which are made to commission and can be decorated with names, initials and pressed dried lavender and rose petals.

Japanese knit designer Hikaru Noguchi, exhibiting in the first week, boils, dyes and machine-knits yarns to make coverings for stools and chairs and has just launched a new collection of woolen foot-stool covers (from £195).

Annie Black, another London textile designer, makes hand-dyed and hand-woven scarves, shawls and throws. Born and raised in San Francisco, Ms Black was given her first loom at the age of ten. She is mostly self-taught and finds inspiration in the work of artists such as Mark Rothko, Braque and Sean Scully. This

Above: Sarah Feather specialises in "fruity" textiles — she encases thin slices of fruit or vegetable between two layers of fabric, usually silk chiffon; from £60 for 15-inch cushions; £65 for an apple-core choker; £300 for a 7ft silk chiffon drape encased with star fruit, kiwis, apples and pears.

Above right and right: Tom Viney makes bowls, plates, book-ends and dominoes from Purbeck stone; plates from £230. Far right: Annie Black makes hand-dyed and hand-woven scarves, shawls and throws; tartan scarves from £40

is her fourth year at the fair. Her work is based around tartans but in colours that she describes as "garish, jarring and lurid — I enjoy exploiting tartan and not getting too tasteful". That said, her work is stocked by artbers of interior design taste, The Designers' Guild on London's Kings Road. Ms Black charges from £38 for a wool scarf to £50 for a silk throw.

Devonshire ceramacist David Cleverly says he "can't

stand the drab and the dismal", and his works confirm his words. Mr Cleverly recombinates elements of the old Staffordshire pottery style "to pay homage to the original without making a slavish copy". This is his second visit to the fair and his works range from £80 to more than £150.

Luggage maker Wyske Lazenby is leaving her converted water mill in northwest Herefordshire to sell her leather goods during the second week of the fair. Trained as a saddler, Ms Lazenby uses vegetable-tanned leathers to make cases, boxes and bags from cuff-link boxes (£60) to

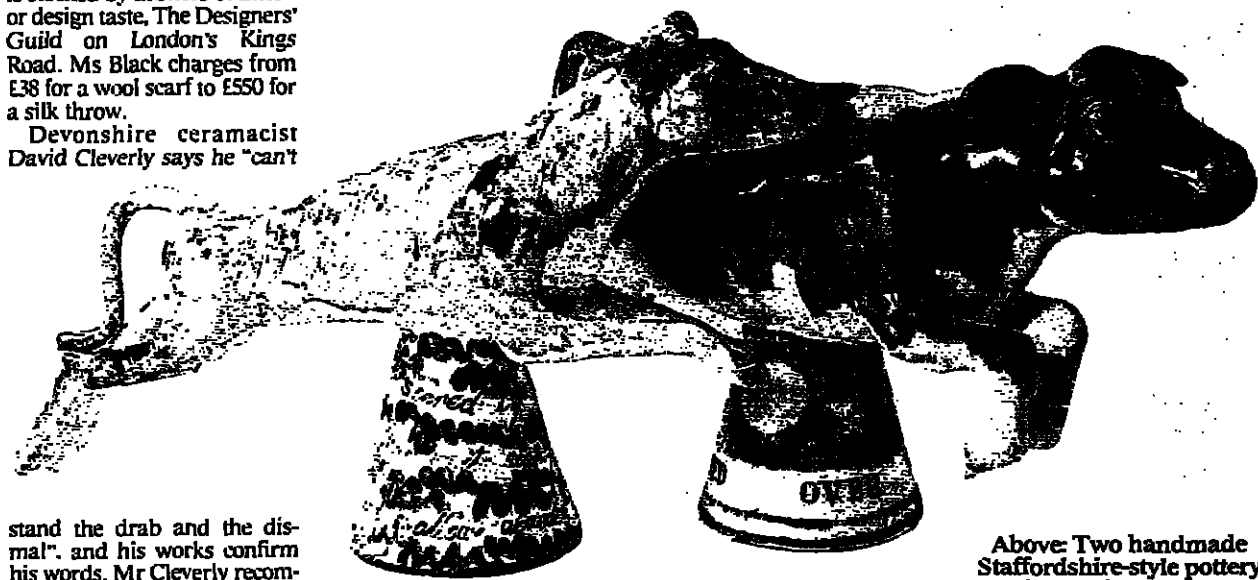
large trunks (£750). Some of her quirkier pieces include children's leather suitcases containing a toy car (£200), and antique hunting flasks with silver cups and leather case (from £450).

Often it is the exhibitor's medium which makes their work so fascinating. Tony Viney makes bowls, plates, book-ends and dominoes from Purbeck stone, a lower Jurassic stone which is around 160 million years old and filled with tiny fossil shells.

He describes his manufacturing methods as "fairly fraught", often involving up to 30 different stages of cutting, chiselling, grinding and sawing to achieve stone plates that are "as thin and delicate as china". He charges from £30 for a small, simple plate to £450 for a more intricate piece made to commission.

Hampshire furniture designers Gaze Burvill, having noted that garden furniture was mostly upright, angular and often uncomfortable, developed a design for benches and chairs with curved back rails, placed at varying angles, to support the lower back.

Inspired by a picture of the bows of a boat on the front of a box of matches two years ago,



Above: Two handmade Staffordshire-style pottery animals (dog £112, cow £145) by ceramacist David Cleverly.

Right: Book-binder Bex Marriot follows the traditional binding methods and makes the pages and covers from handmade paper; "book sleeves" (£18), sketch books (from £35), Inca design photo album (£50) and large photo album (from £65).

Below: Gaze Burvill's curved wood garden furniture starts at £365

ALICIA DRAKE

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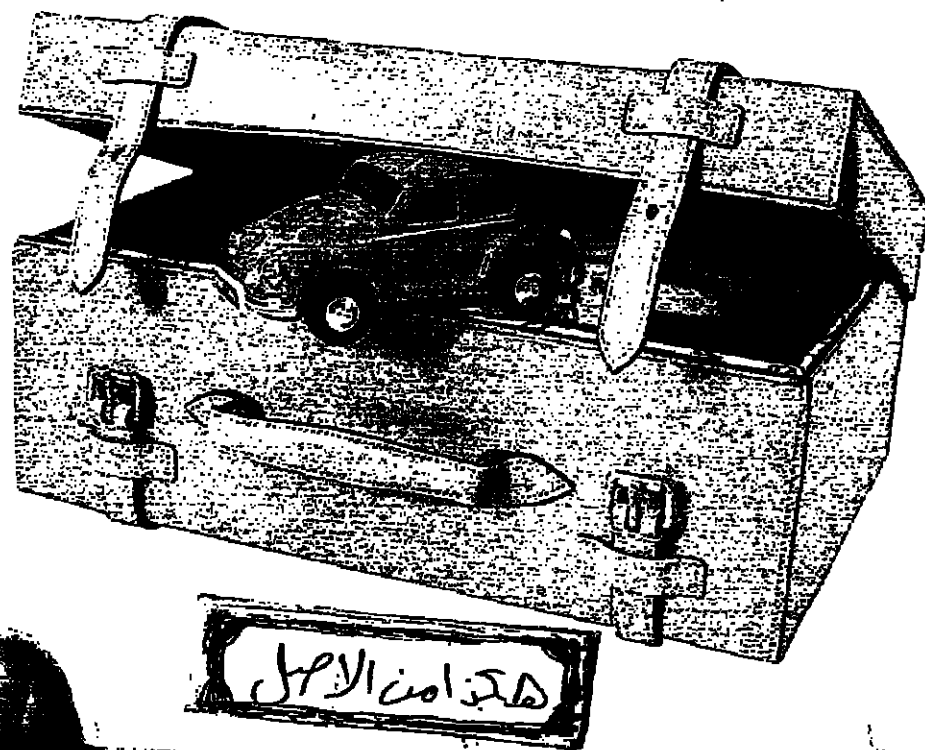
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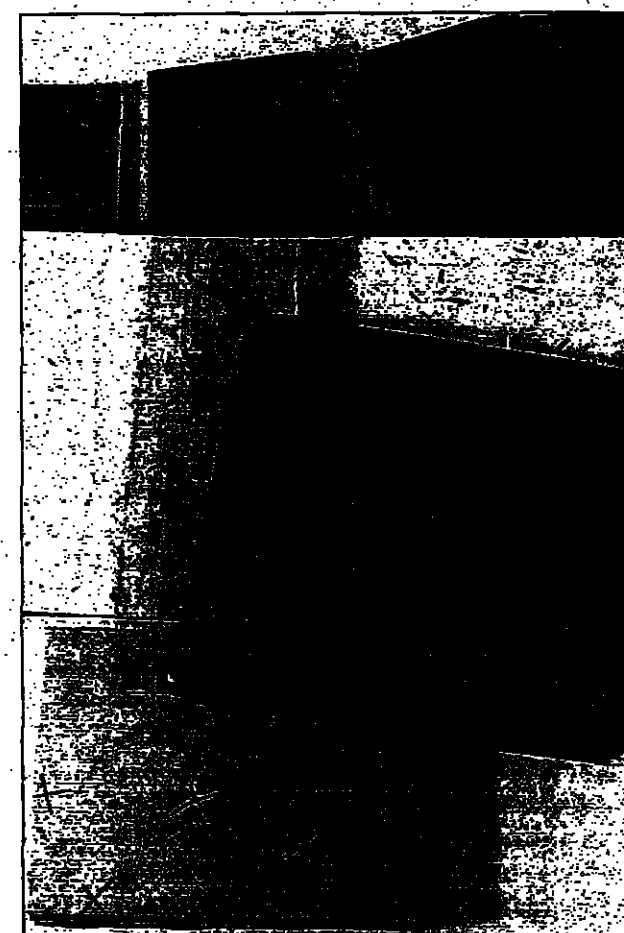
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Inspired by a picture of the bows of a boat on the front of a box of matches two years ago,



Left: Wyske Lazenby's children's leather suitcase with toy car and fun lining (£200)

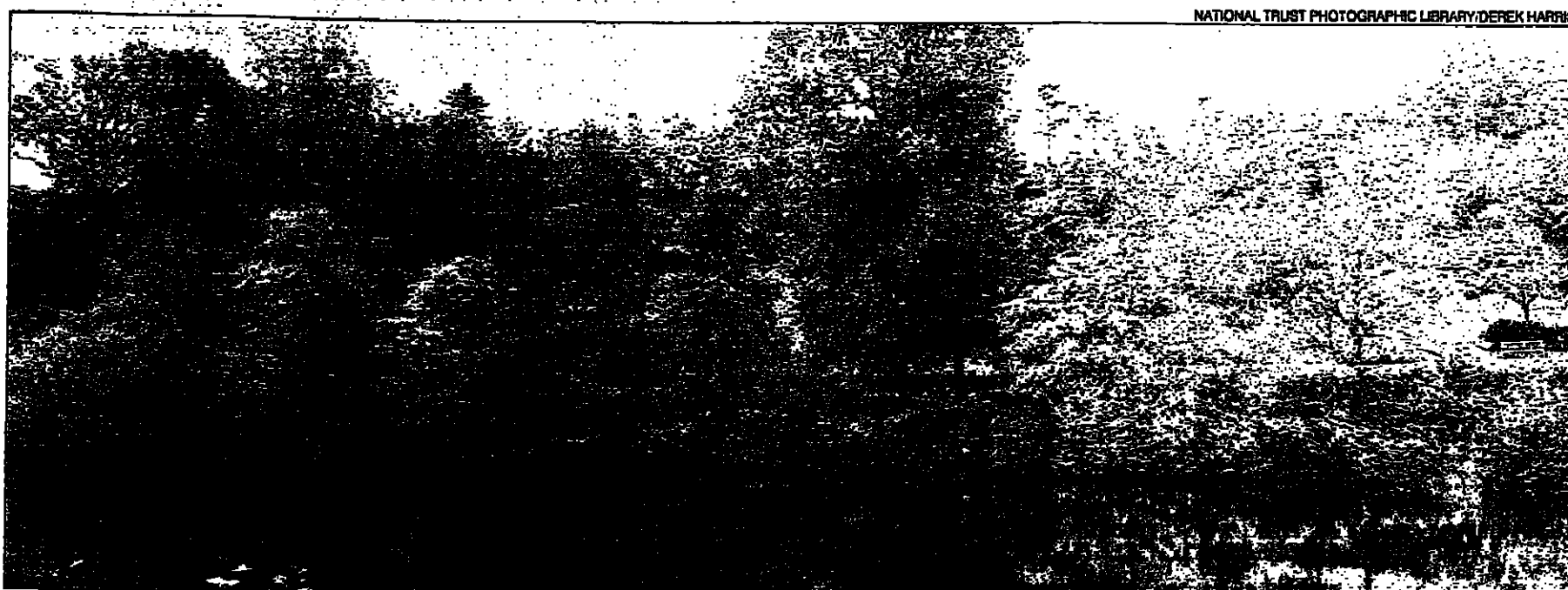


Where to find Chelsea's best

- First week, October 11 to 16
- Annie Black, 4M Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP (071-226 1611)
 - Gaze Burvill, Plain Farm, Old Dairy, East Tisted, Hampshire GU34 3RT (0420 587467)
 - Bex Marriot, 1 Star Brewery Workshop, Castle Ditch Lane, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YJ (0273 456718)
 - Hikaru Noguchi, Unit 4W, Cockpit Workshops, Cockpit Yard, Northington Street, London WC1N 2NP (071-916 3823)
 - Tony Viney, Sandy Hill Workshops, Sandy Hill Lane, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5JF (0929 480977)
- Second week, October 18 to 23
- David Cleverly, Haytown Pottery, Haytown, Holsworthy, Devon EX22 7VW (0409 261479)
 - Sarah Feather Design, Redwalls, Burley Woodhead, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 7AS (0943 862583)
 - Wyske Lazenby, Glanarrow Box Co, Glanarrow Mill, Eardisland, Herefordshire HR6 9BY (0544 388403)

GARDENING

11



A magical array of greens, browns, reds and oranges among the rare trees and shrubs on display along the riverbank at Winkworth Arboretum in Surrey

Happy autumn fields of colour

Positioning is all important, says
George Plumptre
The Times
Gardener

Brilliant autumn colour is often a description to treat with caution. To my mind some of the most enjoyable autumn colours can be found among the native trees of hedgerows such as the common *Acer campestre*, or field maple, whose pale yellow, autumn foliage is refreshingly understated when compared to the electric hues of some of its garden relatives such as the cultivars of *Acer japonicum*, the Japanese maple.

Thanks to the clarity of light on sunny days around the autumn equinox at the end of September, the exquisite colours of deciduous woodland are highlighted as the leaves turn. The subtle contrasts of hedgerow colours are hard to imitate but a look round a few of the best autumn foliage gardens shows the importance of positioning and grouping of the plant

material. Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire and Sheffield Park in Sussex are good examples. Westonbirt is renowned for its spectacular groups of acers. Their massed foliage, in shades of red, orange and yellow, stands out against a background of majestic, evergreen conifers, or provides the edging to a broad, open glade.

At Sheffield Park the grouping of individual trees on the edge of water adds enormously to the effect of their colour. In mixed groups, including evergreens amid an array of autumn colour, the *Nyssa sylvatica* make bold columns of red, orange and yellow, reflected in the water.

Visitors to Sheffield Park should make time to go to High Beeches, only a few miles away, which has been developed as an autumn garden since its original planting at the beginning of this century. Then, Colonel Giles Loder (of the illustrious gardening dynasty) was influenced by his friend, Arthur Soames of Sheffield Park.

He thinned the mature beech and oak to create vistas and open glades. He planted new ornamental trees either as single specimen trees or in groups to enliven the native trees. Colonel Loder died in 1966 and the house and garden were bought by the Boscawens,

who have continued his work. The garden includes a National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) collection of *Stewartias* (or *Stuartias*). This small family of unusual but immensely beautiful trees produce white or cream camellia-like flowers in July and August and then spectacular red or yellow autumn foliage. Another distinctive characteristic is attractive flaking bark, especially on *Nyssa sylvatica*, which is the most widely grown. All *Stewartias* like partially shaded woodland and lime-free soil. Once planted they should not be disturbed.

Near Bedale in Yorkshire is Thorp Perrow Arboretum, where Sir Leonard Roper began planting his collection of trees 50 years ago. Thorp Perrow is comparable to Westonbirt in the way in which evergreen conifers provide the background for smaller deciduous trees with distinctive autumn foliage, for instance groups of different acers in front of a variety of green or golden cypresses. The size of the arboretum allows for single varieties of trees to be planted in large numbers, for example, the avenue of red oaks, *Quercus rubra*. These trees, part of the Thorp Perrow NCCPG national collection of oaks, produce dazzling red foliage at this end of the year.

Trees for autumn colour need to be thoughtfully integrated into a garden, especially a small one. An *Acer palmatum* planted in splendid isolation on a lawn in keen anticipation of its glowing red foliage can have the effect of a pedestrian-crossing beacon, if it is not integrated in its setting.

Partly for this reason, I prefer trees whose autumn colour is a shade of yellow. One of the best is *Ptelea trifoliata* "hop tree" which, like so many autumn foliage trees, originates in eastern America.

Gardens to visit

■ **Batsford Park Arboretum**, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (0608 650722)
Open daily until mid-November, 10am-5pm. £2, concessions

■ **Hergest Croft, Kingston**, Herefordshire (0544 230160)
Open daily until Oct 30, 1.30pm-6.30pm. £2.20, concessions

■ **The High Beeches**, Handcross, Sussex (0444 400589)
Daily except Weds until Oct 30, 1pm-5pm. £2.50, concessions

■ **Sheffield Park, Uckfield**, Sussex (0825 790655)
Daily except Mon until Nov 6, 11am-6pm. £4, concessions

■ **Thorp Perrow Arboretum**, Bedale, Yorkshire (0677 425323)
Daily all year down to dusk. £2.20, concessions

■ **Westonbirt Arboretum**, Tetbury, Glos (0666 880220)
Daily all year, 10am-5pm (or dusk). £2.50, concessions

■ **Winkworth Arboretum**, Haslemere, Surrey (0483 208 477)
Daily all year, dawn to dusk. £2

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q I have an American persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) grown from seed collected in America. It has been in the open ground for nine years and is 9ft tall. It has not bloomed yet. Can it be expected to? — Peter Draisie, Tiverton, Devon.

A This species of persimmon is less common than the Far Eastern species *Diospyros kaki*, which is the one commonly sold in markets. It can reach 100ft high in America, and therefore, like most large trees grown from seed, it could well be 10-20 years before flowering begins. It is barely hardy in our climate, and is only likely to thrive outdoors as a wall shrub in favoured areas. It requires the heat of a greenhouse to begin to produce good fruit.

Q Moles are running riot in a shrubbery of rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias, and are now making excursions into the lawn alongside. I have been pouring Renardine into the runs to control them, but have been advised that diesel oil is equally effective. Will this harm the shrubs? — A Stanbrook, Cranleigh, Surrey.

A Diesel will certainly harm your shrubs, and fuel oils should not be poured anywhere near plants. You could safely try the effect of diesel by putting a little on to pieces of rag or cotton wool, and putting them into the runs. Such a small amount would be harmless to your shrubs. The most effective method of control, in practised hands, is still trapping. Tunnel traps do not stick up above the ground like the traditional cross-over traps, and are therefore safer

where children and pets are around. They can be purchased from LBS Polythene, Cottontree, Colne, Lancashire.

Q We have several clumps of bamboo which are fairly well established. Last year they were covered by flood water for several days. This has killed many of the old stems, although a few weak stems are now struggling through. Should we cut off the old, dead canes or leave them as protection for the emerging shoots? — Dr A.A. Newton, Bude, Cornwall.

A Cut out all the dead stems at once, to let in the light to the new shoots. You should find that they then grow more strongly. (You will also gain a stock of garden canes.) It may be that the new shoots, if they are long and have been hemmed in by dead canes, are too weak to support themselves, and you may need — for this year at least — to cut the dead canes down to a height which still gives the new shoots some support. If the new canes are not self-supporting by next year, cut them off to the ground too, and make a completely fresh start. Next spring give them all a heavy dressing of ordinary, rich old manure.

Bamboos which have been knocked back so hard do take a year or two to get going again, but if there are signs of life they will make it in the end.

Q Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 6XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

ENTERTAINMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

THEATRES

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MOODY
STAPLETON
In Place Chester-Robinson's

PETER PAN
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RICHARD DAWKINS
MOODY
STAPLETON
In Place Chester-Robinson's

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RICHARD DAWKINS
MOODY
STAPLETON
In Place Chester-Robinson's

THE IDEAL NIGHT OUT...
A play about the night out...
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Princess is not fair game

Giles Gordon deplores the scramble for scandal at Frankfurt

William Rees-Mogg thundered in these pages earlier in the week against Bloomsbury for publishing the vilely composed *Princess in Love* by Anna Pasternak: how her great-uncle, the author of *Dr Zhivago*, must be spinning in his grave. Even Barbara Cartland complained about the prose, declaring it not her style at all. By the end of the first day of the forty-sixth annual Frankfurt Book Fair, Bloomsbury had sold translation rights in the meretricious volume to France, Holland and Japan. And the American rights to Viking Penguin.

Peter Mayer, the dazzling chief executive of Viking Penguin, is an honourable man of drive, passion, intelligence and vision. He published Salman Rushdie. And now he has acquired from Bloomsbury the US rights in *Princess in Love* for, it is said, either £200,000 or \$200,000. As Lady Bracknell would have spat out with disdain, the price is immaterial.

I am not urging that the British publishing industry should appoint the equivalent of the Lord Chamberlain, the gentleman who used to decree which plays were to be allowed to see. I am suggesting that to be a publisher is to have responsibilities less to shareholders (Bloomsbury is a share to society, to readers and to one's integrity).

The world of Frankfurt is divided between those — and they are many — who admire what Bloomsbury has done, taking it to be a crafty piece of publishing which will subsidise more serious, less saleable titles (and anyway the younger royals had it coming to them) and those, like me, who believe publication of the book to be an abomination.

If there is a book of the fair, it is *Princess in Love*, and that brings no credit to the international publishing community. It is not for me, or for anyone else, to tell Peter Mayer and Viking Penguin what to publish. What is astonishing is that publishers, reared on good books, think it appropriate to expend their resources, human and financial, on such drivel.

Similarly, Pan Macmillan is publishing Mrs Robert Maxwell's story, and other publishers were reputedly queuing to sign up Frederick West's lawyer, Blake Publishing is whispering at the fair that it is to bring out

Camilla, *The King's Mistress*, a biography of Camilla Parker-Bowles.

Finally (enough is enough), journalist Eve Polard and two friends have sold to Headline a novel called *Splash* about three powerful media women. Perhaps the idea is that a novel by three authors will sell three times as many copies as a novel by one. More probably, none of the authors had the time to write the entire novel.

On the first day of the fair, the British ambassador to Germany was to be found on Reed's stand, being lectured by publisher Richard Charkin. Charkin apparently briefs the ambassador every year.

This week, his message was that the British publishing community would keep coming up with the ideas for interactive and multimedia concepts as they have always done with imaginative books, even if the Americans might make more of them in the long term.

6 The book is in danger of entering the new Dark Ages

A year ago I observed that, in the era of fax machines and instant global communication, the Frankfurt Book Fair is redundant except as a kind of pleasure palace for tens of thousands of the world's publishers. This remains the case. Certainly serious publishers discuss serious books with serious publishers from other countries and translation rights are sold but, without Frankfurt, they would surely still be sold.

If Frankfurt is no longer to do with the art of the book, what is it to do with?

It has become, in the words of publisher turned agent David Godwin, the home from home of the concept book, a pragmatic if cynical device which provides publishers with the wherewithal to carry on publishing. Richard Charkin may be serious about trade publishing, but this did not stop him from commissioning Caroline Upcher to write *Swan*, which poses as a novel by "supermodel" Naomi Campbell. So, too, with *Princess in Love*.

I feel that, with the advance of multimedia, the book and the publishing of books are in danger of entering a kind of new Dark Ages. If standards can be lowered so easily, why shouldn't they be lowered even further? Yet it is hard to imagine how this could be. Perhaps next year's Frankfurt will reveal.



Temple dance: from a Norman Parkinson session for French Vogue, September 1980, from Parkinson, *Photographs 1935-1990* (Conran Octopus, £40)

Momentary panic attack

Did a viral outbreak in 1989 threaten the human race? Nigel Hawkes thinks not

■ THE HOT ZONE
By Richard Preston
Doubleday, £14.99

IN December 1989 a consignment of monkeys sent from the Philippines to a research laboratory close to Washington DC were found to be infected with a rare and deadly virus.

No humans caught the bug, which was fortunate. The Ebola virus in its original home in Zaire is one of the nastiest germs around, killing 50-90 per cent of those who catch it. The monkeys were slaughtered and the lab cleared and disinfected, but a month later there was a fresh outbreak among a new batch of monkeys.

This time, four people were infected, but none suffered serious symptoms. A potentially alarming incident had passed off with no public health consequences: the real victims, alas, were the monkeys. It turned out that the virus almost but not quite leaked on the American capital from the lab at Reston, Virginia, was of a different strain and far less pathogenic than its African progenitor.

The current flap over plague in India shows that infectious diseases still have the power to spread panic. The arrival of Aids from Africa ten years ago is evidence, too, that the dark continent may indeed prove to be the breeding-ground of new viral infections with worldwide implications.

But the Reston incident, for all of Richard Preston's overexcited prose, was not a national disaster, nor even a local one. It made an interesting footnote in the virology texts, but it is impossible to feel that it began to justify a book written and promoted in such a fevered fashion as this one.

The *Hot Zone* hops to and fro between Africa and the American laboratories, reporting every incident with a mass of circumstantial detail which must be invented, unless all Preston's informants have total recall. Much of it is neither relevant nor informative, but it is applied with a trowel.

What are the facts? In Africa, the virus has caused deaths, and nobody yet knows exactly where it comes from. Although it is found in monkeys, the actual reservoirs may be insects, bats, or other creatures. Preston cannot answer this question, because the virologists have yet to come up with an answer themselves.

Easy travel makes it possible that viruses like these will escape from their home range and spread around the world, but the Reston experience is, if anything, reassuring. The virus was successfully contained, and made no inroads among the political elite in Washington DC, who would have made the most tremendous fuss.

Determined readers will emerge from this book knowing a little more about viruses and the complex measures needed to study them in safety. But a book that promises "the most terrifying true story you will ever read" ends in bathos, as it becomes clear that nobody (in America, at least) suffered more than slight inconvenience.

Preston sets out to make the flesh creep, but offers far too little light and shade. A book that aims to thrill like a novel needs to be paced like a novel, but *The Hot Zone* rushes uncontrollably from sensation to sensation, using adjectives like blunt instruments to belabour its readers, before finally descending into anticlimax.

Richard Ingrams tells Danny Danziger how he sees the portrait of himself in his biography

Shurely no mishtakes?

■ LORD OF THE GNOMES
By Harry Thompson
Heinemann, £17.50

MY recollection is that Harry brought up the idea of this book at a *Private Eye* lunch. He said that his publishers wanted him to write another book, and he could not think of anything to write about except me. He asked if I would agree to it. After some humming and hawing, I said yes.

I was quite flattered that he should want to write a book about me, and I wanted to do Harry a good turn, but it is a bit silly in a way, because I am quite young, and I do not regard my life as over by any means.

But I have such a bad memory, I thought I would find this book interesting and that it would be full of things I had forgotten.

Also, I think a biography has to be written by someone who is interested in the subject, which Harry is. He is a great fan of *Private Eye*, and therefore of me, I suppose. The kind of biographer you would

dread is somebody who is just doing it for money. One of the first people Harry went to see was my mother. She showed him her old scrapbooks, and he got on very well with her. I do not think anyone has ever spoken to my mother about me before, although a lot of stuff has been written about me.

He found an old friend of mine who had been in the army with me in Korea, whom I had not seen for ages, and he even spoke to my first girlfriend, Fiona Douglas-Hall.

There were several key people who would not agree to an interview. My wife, who left me about three years ago,



Ingrams: "quite flattered"

refused to talk to him. She rang me to say she did not want anything to do with it. I passed the message on.

Christopher Booker would not speak to him, but that was not a surprise. I suspect Booker has a grudge against me,

because about 30 years ago I sacked him from the editorship of *Private Eye*. Germaine Greer would not co-operate either as we had a row very recently. I still regard her as a friend, but she is a difficult person, as she herself would admit.

Harry gave me the manuscript to look at, and there were a lot of things I objected to, but Harry did not seem to take any notice. For instance, I think the picture he gives of my wife is completely wrong. In the book he says that I was very unhappy in my marriage, which I think is quite false. I do not see it like that at all.

The first few chapters describing my early days are the best bit of the book. I thought all the stuff about my childhood and my family was very

interesting. But when it gets on to *Private Eye*, I am just bored by that. I have read it all before. Who gives a damn really, apart from people at *Private Eye*?

On the other hand, you could say, well, what else is there to write about? The book ends on a happy note: of me meeting my new partner and they all lived happily ever after.

I don't regret that the book was done. It was written in a very friendly spirit, and that is rare these days. So much else that has been written about me is a hatchet job, because the fact is, once you give up power, as I did with the editorship of *Private Eye*, everyone sets about attacking you, because you have no retaliation. So it is very nice that somebody should write a friendly biography, and I would stick up for Harry on those grounds alone. And I would give *Lord of the Gnomes* seven out of ten. 2

which King embroiders his tale of escalating fantasy. What turns the nice guy next door into a psychopathic, murderous wife-beater? Simply the fact of her signing a pro-abortion petition at the local drugstore? Or are we in a cosmic endgame with the fate of the universe in the balance?

In a stroke of brilliance — as well as humanity — King has made his protagonists in this novel those whom the politically correct might term "chronologically challenged", i.e. old. His characteristic prose style, toying with the poetic, is coupled with uncomfortably clinical observation on the flawed mechanics of the ageing process and a genius for working details of late 20th-century everyday tat into Gothic fantasy.

This is not a horror story in the classic mould: it is a supernatural adventure romp on the fringes of the imagination, popular fiction at its best.

King: stroke of brilliance

PETER MILLAR

along with him". Geoff Dyer in *The Guardian* felt that the book had been "ghosted by the author himself". David Hollway in *The Daily Telegraph* thought that "reading these tales is like listening to an orchestra humming and tooting and tuning up for a major performance — his next novel, perhaps".

Meanwhile in *The Guardian*, Homi K. Bhabha of Chicago University brooded on the title of the book: "At a time when writers are concerned with the 'hyphenated' realities of being Afro-Caribbean or Asian-American, East-West furnishes the little room of literature with a voice that rises from the 'common' that both divides and joins East and West." A busy comma, that one. Col cms: 275

3.5 Catch-44: Some disappointment at *Catching Time* (Simon & Schuster, £14.99). Joseph Heller's sequel, 32 years later, to his great *Catch-22*. "A tired, sad novel," said Nick Hornby in *The Sunday Times*. Yossarian, the bombardier who once came naked on parade to receive his gallantry medal, is now "the ultimate insider-trader," said Scott Bradfield in *The Independent*, and "it's not so easy to laugh

An evening with Archbishop Tutu

DURING Nelson Mandela's imprisonment, Archbishop Desmond Tutu became the voice of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. He will share his experience of life under oppression and the birth of South African democracy at a Times/Dillons Forum, introduced by Terry Waite, on Monday, October 24, at 7.30pm at Westminster Central Hall, Storeys Gate, London SW1. Archbishop Tutu will sign copies of *The Rainbow People of God* afterwards.

For tickets, either complete and return the coupon with your remittance, or contact Dillons on the numbers given on the coupon.



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Please send me ticket(s) at £15 each (concessions £10) for the Archbishop Desmond Tutu lecture at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1 on Monday, October 24 at 7.30pm.

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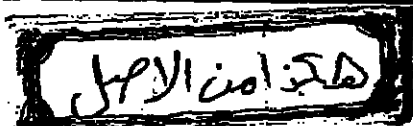
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BOOKS

15

Melvyn Bragg applauds John Mortimer for his seemingly effortless grasp of success

Cross-examining the gods



Mortimer: minimum fuss

"How delightful to read Mr Mortimer
With his wise erudition
And exceedingly well-polished
stories
It's a joy, it's a charm."

As if to ward off envy at the guaranteed pleasures to come, John Mortimer puts on a necklace of garlic at the opening of the book and describes a desperate and recurring dream. There is, he is saying, a price to be paid for these comforts and I pay it. Yet he makes sure that we do not.

His anxieties and melancholy are given short shrift. For most of the time we enjoy a carousel of fun, characters, opinions and adventures, taking in criminals, judges, theatrical nabobs, foreigners of several denominations, friends, idyllic family, his prejudices and opinions, all touched on with minimum fuss to maximum effect.

His father is still the dominating character, even though he has died well before this volume begins. But Mortimer still lives in his father's house and constantly repeats the magnificent words his father taught him. Perhaps because of that father, he is mildly addicted to eccentricities with a sort of genius — Tony Richardson, Peggy Ramsay and Myfanwy Piper are just three

of the dozens of pen portraits of many of those who were most entertainingly *contre* in English life. He is sympathetic to some murderers, hard on some lawyers, impeccably liberal on, say, prison reform and all laws and practices stacked against liberty and the individual. He is very sensible about writing itself, commending, for instance, the taking up of a real job first, especially one in which the

■ MURDERERS AND OTHER FRIENDS
By John Mortimer
Viking, £17

writer "meets people in crises in their lives as doctors, priests and defending barristers do".

He has Rumpoiled us all into admiration — very few characters in English fiction over the past generation compare with television's stumpy legal crusader. Throughout his life, but especially since giving up the Bar (in Singapore), he has written all around the houses — for the opera, for magazines, television, films, the theatre, novels and memoirs. They all flow from him at a success rate which should, by now, have bred a platoon of detractors. That they are so

massively outnumbered by his supporters is a tribute to his unique roundedness.

For the Conservatives, he is the acceptable face of Labour. For Labour, he is the comprehensible voice of roast-beef, fox-hunting England. He calls himself "a champagne socialist... an atheist of Christ". His socialism is as much that of Dickens as of Keir Hardie, and his atheism sits happily in the pews of the Church of England near Henley and all's well with the world.

That is the man. Complacency never sets in. He is too thoughtful and cunning to

tempt the gods; but he does cross-examine them with humour, with good manners and with persistence.

In this book, as in so much of what he writes, you stick in your thumb and you pull out a plum.

A knight at the opera

But does Sir Denis Forman listen to rap, James Naughtie wonders



Al-Azhar school in Malaysia, from Abbas/Magnum's Allah O Akbar (Phaidon, £39.99)

SIR Denis Forman's frustrations are now laid out for our examination, as surely as if he were in the psychiatrist's chair. He has been driven nearly to despair by the banal obfuscations of the traditional opera-programme synopses, which should take their place in the gallery of contemporary torments, along with hi-fi instructions translated from the Japanese, vacuum-packed junk mail and pins in new shirts.

His book is a cry of pain, and for that it is welcome. The cry, however, sometimes becomes a rather repetitive screech, and like the noises from certain sopranos in their twilight times, it can make you uncomfortable even when you do not want it to. Some will think the irritations are worthwhile because the intent is so noble, others may find them indigestible. I swither and then choke.

The point of the thing is clear. He has taken the most popular operas and rendered the plots in plain English, adding notes for the newcomers which are meant to direct the attention to the highlights. These are listed under the heading "Look out for", and as if the description is not enough, Sir Denis has devised a star system for arias and musical moments so that you know when to be especially attentive — so, in *Rosencavalier*, the Act III trio gets three stars but the overture only one because "it is famous for starting the opera off with an orgasm but honestly if nobody told you, you would never know".

So it is refreshing and infuriating at the same time. As a paid-up member of the Society to Abolish Silly Opera Programmes I cannot but raise a cheer for the disrespectful tone and the effort to explain plots simply and without the contorted syntax which

■ FORMAN'S OPERA GUIDE
Edited by Sir Denis Forman
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

so many programme notes still embrace. But it is wearing.

Each of his accounts begins in the same way, "The one where..." or "The one about...". So Verdi's *I Lombardi* is "the one with lots of singing crusaders, a hermit in a cave and a brand of mineral water with supernatural powers". And you will want to know that *Götterdämmerung* is "the one where Siegfried makes new friends who stab him in the back, where Brunnhilde is very brave and Valhalla goes up in flames".

This may be a welcome relief from paragraphs beginning "17 years having passed..." and the habit of referring to characters (especially minor ones) by a number of different names and titles in the course of a synopsis, but it grates in its own way. Act II Scene 3 of *Die Walküre* proceeds like this, we are told: "Hey! Steady! Not so fast, stop! says Siegmund to Sieglinde. 'We're both knackered.' I have seen better renderings. The *auto-da-fé* scene in *Don Carlos* is "a good fry-up of heretics". And so on. Yet it is unfair to suggest that the style destroys the exercise altogether, though it seems a strange tone of voice for the distinguished Sir Denis, as if he has taken to listening to rap records in his maturity.

The book is a huge compendium which has enough verve and effervescence to overcome some of the objections. Obviously, coming from a former deputy chairman at Covent Garden and an energetic man of the arts, it is meticulous in its way. Above all it exudes the excitement of opera.

The trouble is that it trips

over its own bootlaces. In trying to ridicule some of the more pretentious offerings of those who like to make opera obscure, it is rather patronising to the new opera audience at which it is presumably aimed. People may find that they grow out of the book rather quickly. They may well remember some of its insights, though, as they move on: after the plot summaries there are some sparky little chapters on singers (happily with dates of birth, often closely guarded secrets), operatic history, composers, conductors and even producers.

Sir Denis wants to remind everyone that opera should never be about obscuring things but about lifting you onto a different plane where everything is clearer. But he has decided on shock tactics, and even the least precious of readers will not be able to resist a shiver on some pages. For every bravo there will be a boo — perhaps, two. He will be happy with that, because he believes with the best of them that opera should never be comfortable, and in this book he is true to himself.

LAURIE TAYLOR

Better mind your Ps and Cs

Political correctness has managed to offend both Left and Right

■ THE WAR OF THE WORDS: The Political Correctness Debate
Edited by Sarah Dunant
Virago Press, £7.99

"Liberal Liberalism", she tells the detailed story of how her defence of traditional educational standards and classic texts in *The Guardian* brought down upon her the wrath of an "intellectual lynch mob" of cultural relativists. She is not even prepared to credit those who attacked her views on language and literature with good intentions. Their concerns were less "to protect the ostensible targets of prejudice — black people, women or whomever — than to demonstrate the moral purity of the expurgators".

Phillips has no doubts about the penetration of the PC movement. On the basis of "enquiring around" a number of university social work departments, she discovered that unless staff and students "confessed to their own racism, they would be persecuted until they did so". This sweeping assertion has



Dunant: "double whammy"

to be set alongside John Annette's rather gentler conclusion from a survey of American campuses that it is an "exaggeration" to say that "the teaching of the curriculum has been substantially altered by advocates of PC", and Lisa Jardine's insistence that she has "yet to encounter one real-life example of bowdlerising of classic books in the name of PC".

It is a relief to find a calm and balanced essay by Stuart Hall as the backdrop for the volume. He argues that such a

concentration upon language alone is an example of the mistaken belief that "if things are called by a different name they will cease to exist". It may be valuable to examine the assumptions built into our use of language but "trying to get people collectively to change their behaviour towards minorities is one thing, and telling them what they can and cannot say is something altogether different".

It is, however, a final testament to the current strength of the PC movement that Hall is already nervously anticipating the likely reaction to his remarks. "As I write, I can hear the thumbscrews being unpacked, the guillotine sharpened, the pages of the *Dictionary of Political Correctness* being shuffled, the tumblers beginning to roll."

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Robert Blake on
The Major Effect,
Colin Welch on a
history of hanging

Early tongues of angels

JILL Paton Walsh was understandably aggrieved when *Knowledge of Angels* was turned down by publishers who should have known better. She may have been further disgruntled to find herself described under the Bookers' furor as "a successful writer for children". The phrase has a slightly derogatory air about it, as though such persons are not up to writing real novels or are doing very nicely out of merchandisable stuff about three-fingered postmen.

Such is emphatically not the case. As a writer for children, Walsh's success has something in common with that of authors such as Peter Dickinson or William Mayne. They write because singular ideas catch their imagination.

Even her early stories, *The Dolphin Crossing* (1967) and *Fireweed* (1969) — two books set in the time of the Second World War — were distinguished by an individual stance (not least in the introduction of some swearing, which the publisher excised).

Since then she has shown great versatility in her choice and treatment of themes. There have been unusual picture books, such as her four-book series on children's games, *Can I Play?*; there have been sunny pastorals such as *The Butty Boy* (1975) and *Garth Sampson's Luck* (for which she won the 1985 Smarties prize); there has been a remarkably crafted fictive biography of Grace Darling; and a succession of tougher stories pushing at the borders of the children's market, but with no concessions to fashionable "books for adolescents".

A *Chance Child* (1978), inspired by the horrors of child labour in the Industrial Revolution, and

■ PEPI AND THE SECRET NAMES
By Jill Paton Walsh
Illustrated by Fiona French
Frances Lincoln, £9.99

lution, and *A Parcel of Pateros* (1983), about the coming of the plague to 17th-century Derbyshire, are stories shadowed by darkness, while her historical novel, *The Emperor's Winding Sheet* (for which she won a 1974 Whitbread Award), carries first glimmers of *Knowledge of Angels*.

Several of Walsh's books are now only available in odd editions, such as textbooks or large-print series. Others are unobtainable, including what some consider her most notable achievement, the linked novellas *Goldengrove* and *Unleaving*.

Within this oeuvre, *Pepi and the Secret Names* must count among the unusual picture books, being not much more than an extended word-game. The schematic text is about an Egyptian painter working on the walls of Prince Dhutmoser's proposed tomb. He likes to draw from life, so his son goes out and calls in the wild beasts to have their portraits painted. Their secret names are given in the text in hieroglyphics, and the child reader has the comparatively easy job of translating the Egyptian symbols into English words.

The pictures are a pastiche of Egyptian wall-paintings, a method of illustration at which Fiona French is a dab hand. Indeed, years ago she wrote her own Egyptian picture book, *Huni*, but that too, needless to say, is out of print.

BRIAN ALDERSON

Jill Paton Walsh's childhood.
Magazine, page 98

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Dreams for a sleepless night



Eva Hoffman: haunting images

■ EXIT INTO HISTORY
By Eva Hoffman
Minerva, £6.99

In the summers of 1990 and 1991, Eva Hoffman travelled through the new Eastern Europe, rediscovering, amidst the changes, its own, long forbidden past. Talking to writers and waiters, dissidents turned entrepreneurs, taxi drivers, farmers, priests and psychoanalysts, she nurses iceless vodkas in bleak hotels, comes at night to cities dark as villages, watches cows water themselves in lush Hungarian meadows. She listens to filthy children ask for their mothers in a Romanian orphanage and to a cocktail pianist in Bratislava

tinkling out "Somewhere over the Rainbow".

Her prose contains images as haunting as any from the great East European films, but Hoffman is essentially an analyst. In *Lost in Translation* she tenderly explored the dislocation of a single spirit. Here, she seeks to understand both the common and unique experience, the sharp polarity of Us and Them, which both "formed and deformed human character" under Communism.

Now, when everything, as in the West, is open and up for grabs, "Eastern Europe is partly a test of what we stand for". A fine book, addressing vital contemporary issues.

■ THE VICAR OF SORROWS
By A. N. Wilson
Penguin, £5.99

If you have a taste for novels about middle England which are full of repressed middle-class angst and introspection, this is most definitely the novel for you. If, on the other hand, you feel that you cannot stomach yet another love affair conducted to the sound of pealing church bells, then avoid it like the plague. The hero of Wilson's novel is Francis Kreer, a middle-aged vicar who is plunged into depression by the death of his mother. Bereavement proves the catalyst for a series of changes in Kreer's life which cause him to break with all the conventions of church and family life. The portrayals of snobishness and the petty rivalries of country parishes are more convincing than the vicar's emotional turmoil.



■ TELL ME HOW LONG THE TRAINS BEEN GONE
By James Baldwin
Penguin, £7.99

Published two months after the assassination of Martin Luther King, this erratic novel burns with the fires of racial conflict. Black actor Leo is adrift in a corrupt and bewildering New York. The whites whom he encounters are bullying, nefarious and dispiritingly obstructive. Enraged, Leo concludes that violence offers the only possibility of freedom. Baldwin's vision, so luminous in his earlier writings, is here pessimistic and crude. But the novel is valuable for its illumination of the struggles of the civil rights activists.

■ THE FABER BOOK OF ESPIONAGE
Edited by Nigel West
Faber, £9.99

When Rupert Allason MP missed last year's vote on Maastricht, he was probably too busy finishing this latest work published under his pseudonym, Nigel West. Although this anthology of memoirs, fiction and opinion by secret service workers is gargantuan, it covers only this century. Though there are some great tales by the likes of Fleming and Maugham to be dipped into here, West has also included some pretty dreary stuff. Guy Burgess's essay on the Labour Party, for instance, is hardly required reading for the espionage fanatic.

● Contributors: Sue Gee, Helen Davidson, Jason Cowley, Guy Walters

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MOTORING

19

New slam-bang van is a hit

Three million vans on, Ford has given the latest Transit a sleek new look

Elton John began his rise to fame in one. ICI runs a fleet of them a quarter of a mile underground in one of Britain's salt mines, and a light-weight version holds the world record for jumping over cars.

It is almost 30 years since the Ford Transit van first took to the road, during which time it has become a motoring legend with an image for rough-neck street-cred, a byword for just about any dented van that's about to carve you up and, like Hoover and Filofax, a household name.

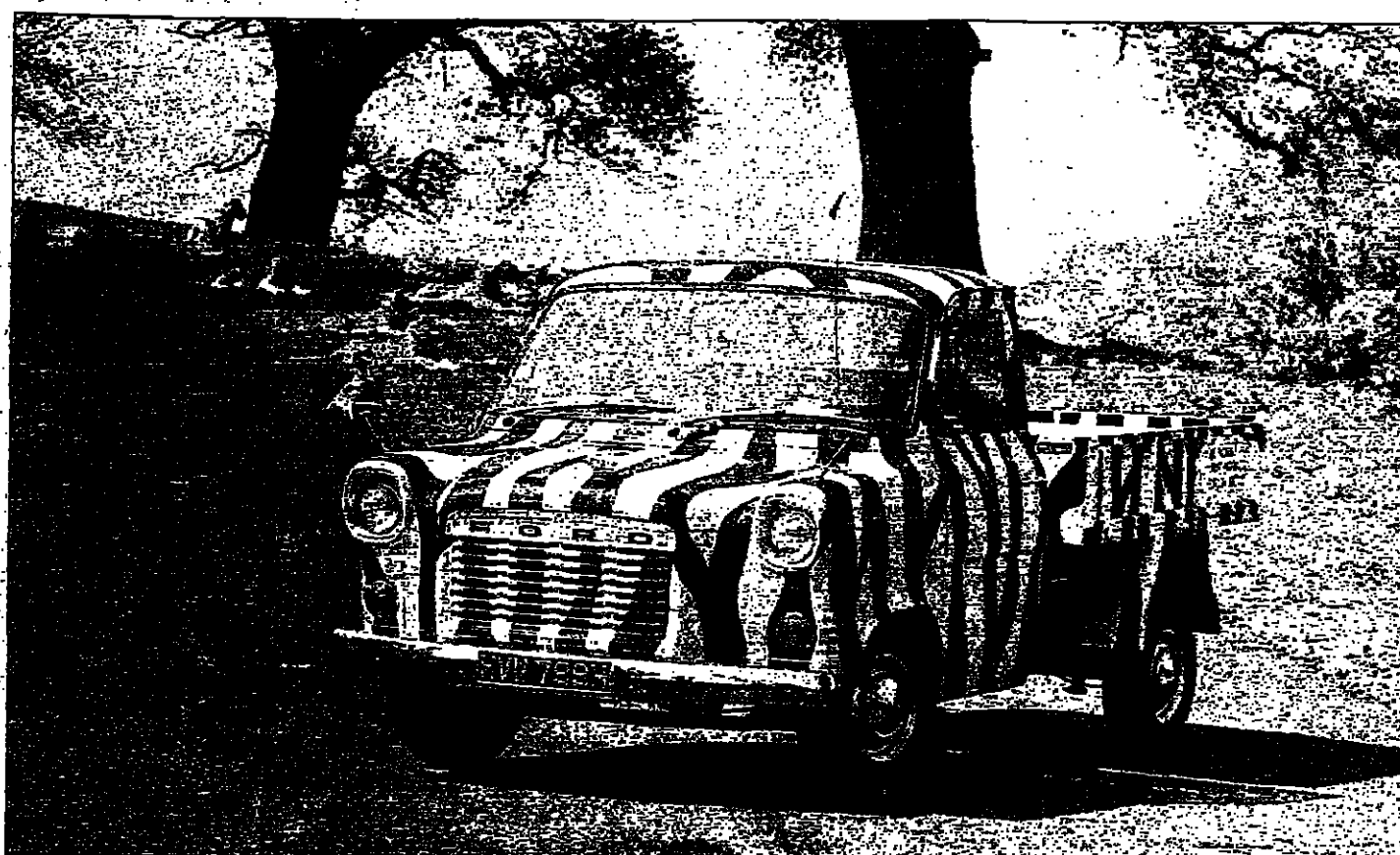
Now the Transit has passed into the record books. The three million Transit has just rolled out of Ford's Southampton plant to make it far and away the most successful van of its kind in Britain.

For its latest model, Ford has cleaned up Transit's street-fighter image with a sleek, aerodynamic look, dashboard instruments from the Mondeo saloon, CD player, anti-lock brakes, holders for bottles of mineral water, and the cleanest, "greenest" diesel engines ever put in a van. Prices start at a basic £9,995 for the Transit 80 model.

And, to replace the old Transit bus model, there is a new, classy, people-carrier called the Tourneo, which starts from £15,395.

The Transit has progressed a lot from the box-shaped vans launched in 1965 and which are etched in the memory for the black diesel smoke billowing from the exhaust and bodywork that always seemed to have just emerged from a gun battle. Other road users soon learned which Transits to avoid: the ones fitted with rubber wings to save operators the trouble of repairing the knocks and scrapes.

On its way to its new velvety appearance, the Transit has had a chequered past. Elton John may spend more time in private jets and limousines now, but as keyboard-player Reg Dwight with the Long John Baldry band, an early "Tranny" was his and the band's favoured transport. The legend was



The Ford Transit quickly became the hauliers' all-purpose workhorse, seen everywhere, like this one at Windsor Safari Park in 1970

launched when Baldry's manager, Barry Lawrence, put the band into a Transit, "because I got fed up with being overtaken by them".

In Cheshire, a fleet of Transits work at the bottom of the ICI salt mine, covering the 2½-mile route from saltface to liftshaft. The Swiss converted Transits to run on rails like trains, and a blood-red model was blessed in 1966 by the Bishop of London when it became the breakdown vehicle for the 59 Club, founded by the Vicar of St Mary's Paddington, in London, for young motorists.

Transits have also enjoyed a sporting life. In 1985, a Transit driven by a stuntman leapt over 15 parked cars and a diesel Transit entered the record books by covering 5,000 miles at the Monza motor race circuit in Italy at an average of 74.64mph.

The Transit was designed and built as a replacement for Ford's Thames 400E, which was made in

Britain, and the Taurus Transit, which was assembled in Germany. The idea was to produce a van that was as easy to drive as a car, rather than being a noisy and uncomfortable scaled-down truck.

The millionth Transit was built a decade after launch and the two million mark reached in 1985. Now the total is three million and going strong, which is good news for hauliers but not so great for the more timid motorists among us.

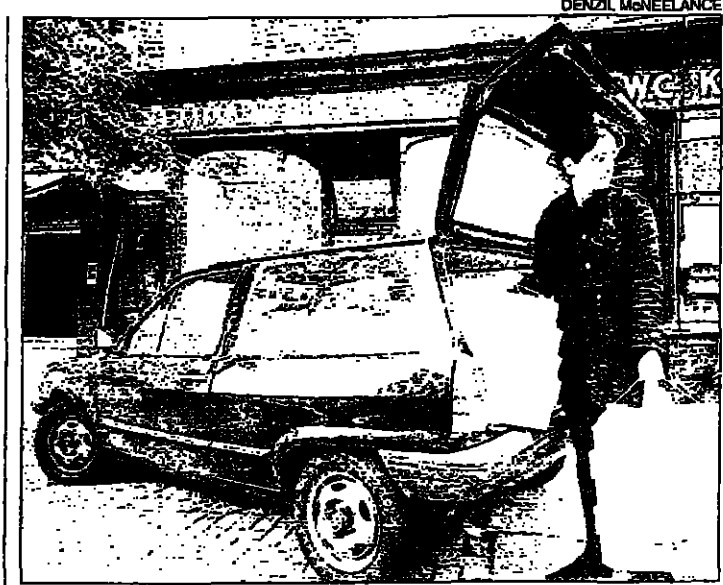
The Transit is not a van ordinary motorists. It's the sight every rush-hour motorist dreads in the rear-view mirror as, panel-bashed and weaving, the looming Transit carves through the crush.

Now, though, there's the comfort of knowing that inside the non-nonsense outside is an environmentally clean engine, a comfy cab and somewhere to store the Evian.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN



Ford's sleek new Transit van, with all mod cons for the driver



Emma Hope, the shoe designer, and her D-reg VW Polo van

THE shoe designer Emma Hope likes driving but laments having ruined many pairs of velvet boots while using her VW Polo van.

How did you first learn to drive?

I was 16 years old, my mother had gone out and I decided to try driving our white Mini around the garden — and got stranded in the middle of the lawn. I telephoned a friend for help and ran back and forth from the phone to carry out his instructions. My mother arrived back puzzled to find me brushing the lawn with a stiff brush. As soon as I was 17 my father started teaching me, but I also took lessons and passed the test first time.

What was your first car?

A silver Mini with a sunshine roof. I was so proud driving around London in it. Then someone drove into it and wrote it off.

What do you drive now and why?

I've had my D-reg Polo van since 1987. It has been great for carrying masses of shoes around but it's not exactly impressive to look at. Two months ago I had windows put in the back and it's no longer like driving around in a dark coffin.

Do you enjoy driving?

Yes, when I have a really nice new tape to listen to, such as the Neville Brothers. I'll turn the sound up and play it over and over again — and the sound drowns out any disturbing noises from under the bonnet.

What is your dream car?

Anything without a roof that makes you feel like you're in a rocket.

What is your most hated car?

The top-of-the-range Ford Granada

STEERING COLUMN

Emma Hope

is a bit soulless, but it is nice being driven to the airport in one.

What is your worst driving habit?

Driving with my knees when I'm tying my hair up.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

That they are there at all... and people like me who cannot resist sneaking past in the inside lane.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Driven along with chestnut trees (designed for my roof garden) sticking out of the windows.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

I'd halt all motorway development and improve existing roads.

What is your most hated car advert?

The Corsa one, with Naomi Campbell and the other supermodels sitting on demolition balls: it made them all look grumpy and foolish, even though I think it was trying to appeal to the female market. To me, it looked like they were being manipulated by the sexist views of the car and advertising industries.

SOPHIE CHAMIER

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GAP YEAR: Many people take time out after their A-levels or when changing jobs to travel the world...

Willing

A year of living dangerously

Indonesia from a train window is sticky, cheap and never-ending. It is made noisier by the vendors who invade at every station, and more alarming by the children who play on the tracks, dashing out from a tangle of shacks, washing lines, litter and banana trees. But then you get beyond the towns to gentler scenes, such as the fields ploughed by oxen, and the rice terraces tended by women bent double in drenched skirts and wearing coolie hats. Spectacularly green, the fields swirl across the hills like layers of lace.

This summer's vegetation on one island was slightly duller than usual. The palm trees were coated in a layer of dust — a sign, the local people said, of activity in the volcanoes that rise blue in the distance. Later we climbed them at dawn, feeling the ground shake as black clouds exploded from the craters and red-hot rocks crashed across the slopes.

Travellers have worn a standard route across the archipelago. This owes a lot to the Lonely Planet guide *Indonesia*, a spin-off from Tony Wheeler's *South-East Asia on a Shoestring*. Most travellers dutifully pack the guide, dependent yet resentful, as one would be of an ever-present parent. Yet the guide is as random and subjective as any, and there are plenty of opportunities to cut your own path.

Reducing Indonesia to any kind of formula is, in any case, a waste of time. Made up of five main islands and 30 smaller archipelagos totalling 13,677 islands (6,000 of which are inhabited), Indonesia is an embroglio of ethnic types, religions, tribes, languages and cultures. What's more, it is rioting, striking and shooting its way towards greater democracy. *The Jakarta Post*, the English language newspaper, provides a glimpse. Visitors, by chance, might come across tortured Indonesian subversives who can fill in bits of what's missing from the censored press.

Travellers with time, and you need lots, start in Sumatra, heading south through Java, Bali and the Nusa Tenggara chain, then

For the backpacker, Indonesia is both sociable and cheap

perhaps heading north to Sulawesi (known here as Celebes) or Borneo. Eastern islands, such as Flores, Timor and Irian Jaya, are becoming more accessible, and those who get that far can feel they are escaping the tourist haul.

But even the more conventional destinations have long to go before they reach their Best Before dates. Bali remains genuinely captivating, despite the number of tourists, and in northern Java I visited villages where no westerner had previously set foot. The southwestern peninsula of Sulawesi is fascinating, and the part of that island most often visited, but Britons have yet to make it a priority.

I flew into Java at Jakarta, the capital and most aggressive and suspicious of Indonesian cities. Glossy towerblocks leer over stomach-churning slums, the public transport caters for every category of Death Wish Anonymous, and tourists plan their escapes.

I made it across to Yogyakarta ("Jogja"). This is Indonesia's shopping zone — mainly leather goods, jewellery and batik — and shopping is a scene from *The Life of Brian*. Ask a price and they say, "25,000 rupiah but you can bargain," and the whole exchange collapses into giggles.

I spent my wisest fiver on Java at a performance of the Ramayana ballet, open air at the Prambanan temples. The dancing is among Indonesia's greatest assets, whether performed by small children, lithe teenagers or elderly women. All are released from the conventions of their ages, transformed by classic poses into images of mesmerising grace. The shadow puppet plays are less accessible: foreigners are issued incomprehensible translations of the plots.

I grabbed my batik-patterned handbag and flew on to Bali, that

legendary paradise. Distressingly, the first stop after the airport is not the white or black sand beaches fringed by coral, or the sculpted hillsides scattered generously with Hindu shrines. No, it's Kuta.

Why do Australians go to Kuta when they have such good beaches at home? This is a place where Japanese tourists gather to applaud the sunset and Indonesian students of tourism research their theses on how not to design a resort. Kuta is so bad it's almost trendy, and worth a visit if only for the local boys with Australian accents doing Indonesian vendor-spiel at its best: "Where you from? What's your name? How old are you? You're beautiful, you want gikolo? Marijuana? You wanna buy a sarong?"

Most travellers pass swiftly on to Ubud, an arty, village hang-out with roads lined by galleries and ticket touts. The surrounding villages are stuffed with temples and the gorges with mini-jungles, waterfalls and bathing pools.

Leaving Ubud, we waited hours while the bus filled up with passengers crammed along narrow seats and the aisle packed with cardboard boxes, chickens and the latest rice harvest. Our backpacks were tied to the roof with half a dozen haystricks, while the bus grunted its way, belching black smoke and loud music.

My strongest memories of Indonesia are not the one-off wonders of the guide books but impressions of warm evenings on verandahs hung with caged birds, of candlelit night markets and mobbings by manic children: of arriving in villages still not lit by electricity. It is a cliché to add, "And the people are absolutely the best" but, hell, the people are absolutely the best. It is all so sociable, and so ridiculously cheap.

LUCY BERRINGTON

● The author was a guest of STA Travel (0714370921) which organised flights to Jakarta by British Airways at £438 return. Internal flights bought via STA are good value: e.g. Jakarta to Denpasar £182 return by Garuda Airways.



Legong dancers on the paradise of Bali. The island remains mysterious and genuinely captivating, despite the number of tourists

Adventures with a backpack



DAN ROBERTS (19)

Travelling around France, Greece and Italy for three weeks in August on a budget of £10 a day was this backpacker's choice of adventure. His Inter-Rail card cost £209 for a month and covered two areas of Europe: France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland, and Italy, Greece and Turkey. He says:

"I left Bristol at three o'clock on the morning of the first day of the holiday and travelled for 27 hours before arriving at Marseille, the first stop on our itinerary. It was exhausting. After this experience, I quickly got used to sleeping in very uncomfortable places — this is the only way to survive such intensive travelling. "I travelled with four other people, which was almost too many, but we avoided a lot of potential arguments by carefully planning our route before we left. Sometimes we had to be flexible about these plans — places that sound unspoiled and tourist-free in the guide book can turn out to be obscure villages with nothing to see, except goats, and have nowhere for visitors to stay. "We usually slept in campsites or arranged our journeys so that we could spend the night on the train (cheap and relatively comfortable). Youth hostels were all packed in August and much more expensive, so we avoided them. Wherever we were, I always slept with my money and passport at the bottom of my sleeping bag. We met people who had lost everything — students on trains seem to be easy targets. "Our tickets were valid for a month but we ran out of money and energy before the ticket expired. We saw a huge amount during the trip: Rome, Pisa, Vienna, Venice, Florence, Cannes and parts of Greece, but we couldn't have kept up our enthusiasm for sightseeing much longer."



ANNA RENTON (22)

Before going to university, Anna Renton bought a round-the-world air ticket and spent seven and a half months travelling by herself in India, Indonesia, Australia, and North and South America. She was on a budget of £5-£12 a day. She says:

"Apart from the occasional family holiday, I had never travelled before I set out on this trip and was very apprehensive about embarking on such an ambitious journey. What worried me most was the prospect of being lonely, and the dangers of travelling as a single woman. "Being by myself turned out to be an ideal way to travel. I was lonely only occasionally — it was worst at the beginning and when I got ill. I was never alone for long stretches because I made a real effort to meet people; if I wanted company I travelled with them. I didn't lose touch with my family — I picked up letters from *poste restantes* and sent home extracts from my diary. "Being a woman alone was more of a problem and was something that I was conscious of throughout the trip. I never felt physically threatened, though I was careful to avoid obviously dangerous situations. The constant stream of slightly rude comments in South America and Asia made me angry and I felt myself becoming more aggressive in response. Ultimately, these irritations were just something I had to put up with. "I've travelled by myself again since this trip and will do again. There's an element of selfishness in wanting to travel alone, but you are so much freer when you are able to make your own decisions. "Travelling on such a large scale is very time-consuming and seven and a half months wasn't long enough. If I were to do it again, I don't think I'd try to take on so much."



LUCY WILLIAMS (21)

Three months' backpacking around South America was Lucy Williams's idea of travel adventure. She says:

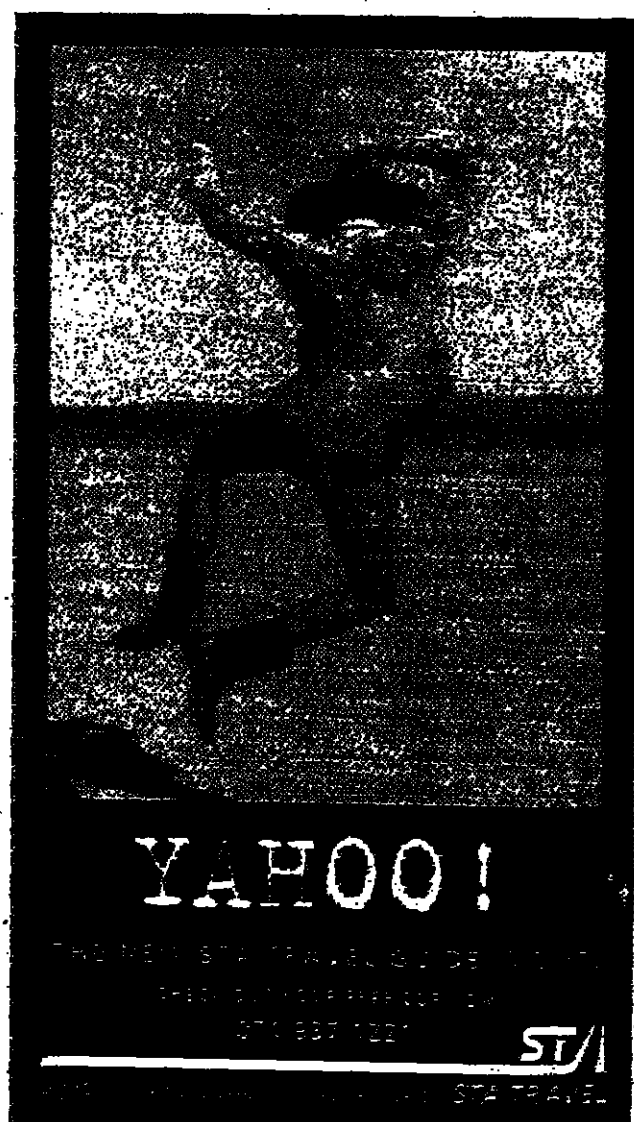
"We didn't have a firm, planned itinerary and were flexible about how the trip developed. This was exciting in that we felt footloose, but in retrospect it might have been

more sensible to have had a firmer plan, because we did waste time retracing our steps.

"We went by coach most of the time; this costs about \$1.50 an hour. The distances we covered, especially in Chile, were so huge that the costs mounted up, but I'd planned to spend about \$20 a day and this was enough. I only needed to use my credit card once."

"Most of the time I was travelling with a friend who spoke good Spanish, which made everything much easier. We took obvious security precautions: we wore money-belts and disguised our backpacks in grain sacks so they didn't look too ostentatious. "I only felt really threatened once — when we got caught up in a big political demonstration in Bolivia."

AMELIA GENTLEMAN



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Willing hands reach out across the globe

A friend warned me: "You do realise that if you see what they get up to you might not want to go." He was referring to my impending visit to a Raleigh International expedition in Zimbabwe. Coincidentally, my 18-year-old daughter had just passed one of the British charity's notorious selection weekends (no sleep, no food, no water, no sun, no rain, no wind, no anything, so a working trip to some of its 11 environmental, community and scientific projects in Zimbabwe was bound to be of personal interest).

Harare provides the base for Raleigh's expanding southern Africa programme, which includes Botswana, Namibia and, coming soon, Uganda. Development projects have also been established in South Africa, south-east Asia, Alaska and Russia. "Development" is a key word in Raleigh's philosophy of combining the personal growth of young people with the 1990s ethic of doing something useful.

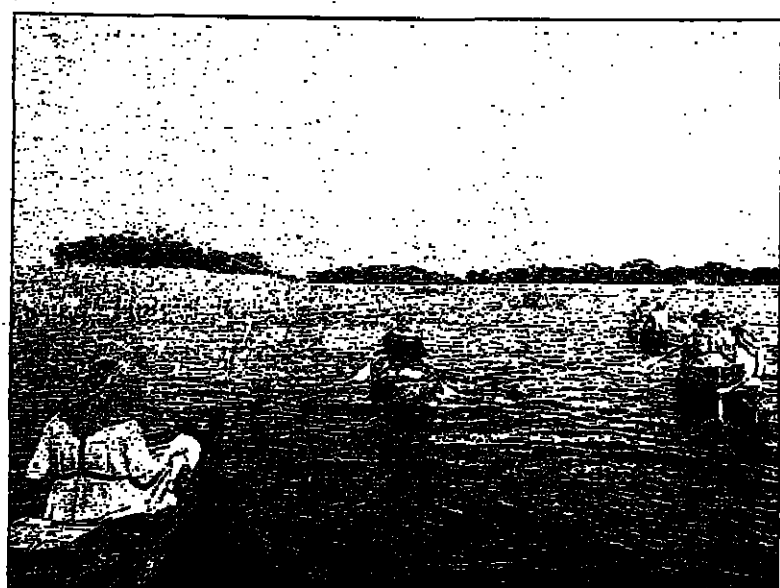
John Blashford-Snell founded the organisation (best known as Operation Raleigh) ten years ago as a quasi-military character-building operation. The dawn risings and mess tins are still high profile, as is the adventure element of trek and watersports, such as diving and whitewater rafting, but these now revolve around the building of a clinic in a remote village or helping conservationists collect research data.

The new-look Raleigh is something between a yomp and a romp. "I think what I'm getting out of it will emerge in years to come," says Robert Jones, a newly qualified teacher on the first five-week expedition to Zimbabwe, introduced this year as an alternative to the usual ten weeks.

"Just being part of this venture and working with people of such high calibre has already boosted my self-confidence. I shall certainly be using the experience in the classroom."

It could be argued that the main part of Raleigh's four challenges is not the expedition, nor using what you have learned, nor even the selection weekend, but raising the required £3,000, albeit with the help of a nationwide network of support groups. Five-weekers have to raise "only" £1,800. Those picked for the Youth Development Programme (YDP), an initiative to help youngsters from difficult backgrounds, raise about half this amount.

The 119 venturers (the name given to volunteers) in Zimbabwe were split into groups of a dozen, with most groups including a few YDP international and commercially sponsored participants. The pack is given a



Venturers in Zimbabwe take a break to explore the environment

reshuffle after the first three weeks and readjust for a further three: those who had been building waterholes in Hwange National Park, for instance, or extending elephant trails for trekkers in the Mavuradonha wilderness area, were moved to a community project.

Raleigh works closely with organisations such as SEE (Surgical Eye Expeditions) International, an American charity which organises operations on simple disorders such as cataracts, and the Save the Children Fund's Farm Health Workers Scheme, which aims to improve medical care for workers on

the country's large maize, tobacco and cotton farms, as well as government departments. Venturers provide most of the labour.

This brought me to a question. I wanted to know: why does southern Africa need brigades of young First Worlders to lay bricks or hack at the undergrowth? Why can't Zimbabweans install their own plumbing? Out in the bush I could see why: lack of money, motivation, and expertise. The changes brought about by a dozen willing pairs of hands were evidently not just physical: awareness is heightened, too. On all sides.

At Godzi, a remote and typical baked-earth village in the Umfuli communal lands, Raleigh was on its fifth expedition to build a clinic. The value of the project was underlined when a young girl limped on to the site on crutches; the sunburn in her amputation had come undone and she had walked about ten miles to seek out help. Without the Godzi clinic, she would have had to struggle on to the next clinic, another ten miles away.

Involvement at Godzi, as at many sites, has extended beyond the job in hand. I watched two venturers teaching "Kumbaya" and "Clementine" to a packed class at the village school. Experiencing "real" Africa was what most venturers voted the top advantage of an expedition over a holiday or aimless backpacking.

The Zimbabwe expedition leader, Ben Clayton-Jolly, a 31-year-old former Army officer and instructor with Outward Bound, recounted how a nine-day camping trek in the isolated Chimanimani mountains, part of the adventure phase, had produced "tears of apprehension" in some venturers.

"It's mainly a physical challenge but it's also psychologically daunting. Some of them didn't think they could cope. When they returned, they were hollow-cheeked with exhaustion but absolutely buzzing with excitement because they had done it."

So, now that I have seen what they get up to, how do I feel about my daughter joining them? A Swiss Army penknife and a head torch will be going in her Christmas stocking this year.

JENNY MCCLEAN

● The author flew to Harare as a guest of Air Zimbabwe.

Raleigh venturers have to go through a tough selection weekend

□ Potential Raleigh venturers must be 17-25 years old, be able to swim 250 metres and have a reasonable command of English. A tough selection weekend includes physical and mental activities. "The worst bit for me," one venturer said, "was having to immerse yourself in mud to get under a bridge. I thought I would never last the weekend — but I did."

"Venturers were advised not to drive to the weekend, because they would be exhausted after it," venturer Max Vaughan said. "I thought the organisers were exaggerating, so I did. But after 36 hours, with one hour of

uninterrupted sleep, I was glad my brother lived nearby, because I could not have driven home."

□ Venturers selected for an expedition must raise the funds to pay for their trip. This is typically about £3,000, but some venturers may get help from their employers: the AA, Inland Revenue, Remploy, British Rail, British Steel and Unilever are among the organisations which encourage employees to apply. Advice is given on fund-raising, including jumble sales and sponsored bungee jumps.

□ The third part of the Raleigh challenge is the expedition itself; the

fourth is putting something back into your community on your return.

□ Forthcoming expeditions include Chile (Jan-March 1995 and 1996), Zimbabwe (Feb-May 1995) and Siberia (July-Sept 1995).

□ Staff members and project leaders are also required. All pay their own way. In Mauritius, the cost was about £1,000, including the air fare and a £7 per day payment to cover meals and accommodation.

□ Expedition details from Raleigh International, 27 Parsons Green Lane, London SW6 4HS (071-371 8585).

M.G.

Max Vaughan, a trainee accountant from Derby, admits to not feeling fulfilled by the first project undertaken by his group, the Weeds, in the heart of the dense Macchiabie Forest a mile or so from Alexander Falls on Mauritius.

This is where the dodo lived and died. Three hundred years later, other species of birds are in danger of extinction, notably the echo parakeet, the rarest bird in the world. Unique to Mauritius, only 20 parakeets exist in the wild, with a few more in captivity, though as yet the birds have not responded as well as other species to captive breeding programmes. To exacerbate the problem, only five of the 20 remaining wild birds are female.

A main cause of their decline is the loss of natural habitat, and Mr Vaughan was spending ten weeks doing something about it before returning home to join the accountants Peat Marwick.

"We were the first group into the forest and had the worst weather you can imagine. It never stopped raining. I lived in a large tent side by side with ten people I didn't know, spending all day doing back-breaking work in the rain and the mud, finishing at 6pm, eating, in bed by 8pm, getting up at dawn the next day and dragging on wet clothes... and the work we

MAURITIUS

were doing just didn't mean much to me.

The group's job was to clear the invasive guava plants from the forest, an essential part of restoring the natural habitat for the echo parakeet and the endangered pink pigeon and other birds. The guava was introduced to Mauritius by man, and has spread even more than rats, monkeys and other pests. The guava grows quickly and thickly, just a few inches apart, and high, reaching into the canopy making it impenetrable for birds.

We climbed one day to the highest point of the island, Mr Vaughan said, "and when we looked down, all we could see was miles of guava."

The guava-clearing project was being undertaken for the Mauritius Wildlife Appeal Fund (MWAF), which was founded in 1984 and is partly funded by Gerald Durrell's Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, whose emblem is the dodo. MWAF workers had already shown that by clearing small areas of forest, the birds and endemic plants will return to repopulate the area and live together in the balance that had been established before man arrived.

MWAF's problem was manpower, which Raleigh International provided.

All that Mr Vaughan could

see at first was rain, guava, machetes and mud. "Then one day," he said "we went with some of the MWAF workers and saw pink pigeons living in an area that had been cleared. That gave me a really good feeling about the work, because then I could see what it was achieving."

The importance of this sense of achievement is confirmed by Carl Jones, the Welsh ornithologist who almost single-handedly has saved the rare Mauritius kestrel from extinction.

In 1974, the kestrel population was down to four birds, which were too young to breed. In 1979, when Mr Jones arrived in Mauritius, it was the island's kestrel which was then the world's rarest bird. Today there are 250 wild kestrels and Mr Jones can now safely end his programme of releasing captive-bred birds.

"You don't need millions of pounds to save a species from extinction," he said, "just tender, loving care. To have the Raleigh people here has cost the government nothing. If you're concerned about what we're doing to the planet, you can feel frustrated: you want to do something, but what? Raleigh shows people that they can do something."

MIKE GERRARD

● The author flew to Mauritius as a guest of Air Mauritius.

STILL PICTURES



Work by Raleigh venturers in the Mauritian forests is helping to save endangered birds

Budget travel checklist

BACKPACKING on a budget, the 1990s equivalent of the Grand Tour, has become almost obligatory. Peer pressure if not genuine curiosity puts us on that flight to Kathmandu, just as in centuries before it pushed young gentlemen towards the Mediterranean.

Travel companies for backpackers, such as STA Travel, Trailfinders, Campus Travel and Travelbag, have responded with discounted tickets and special products. Round-the-world tours — flight tickets mixed and matched to customers' preferences — are popular, starting at £700.

Do not be disheartened if it seems that the world has been covered, that every destination is passed. "You can visit a usual destination and do something unusual," says the travel writer, Christina Dowdell.

Itineraries should be flexible, allowing detours to unmissable sites or for unforeseen disasters. "Be a leaf blown by the wind," says Hilary Bradt, the tour leader and travel publisher. Ms Dowdell agrees, but emphasises the value of thorough research, "so you can decide where you want to be blown" and avoiding, for example, hours or days waiting for a bus in a city you just don't want to see.

Fortunately, travel research is easy. Book shops and libraries have a range of maps and guides. The staple guidebooks are the Lonely Planets, Rough Guides and Let's Go Guides, plus Bradt Publications' series which goes further off the beaten track.

AFTER deciding where to go, there is the matter of whether to get there alone or accompanied. The travel purists always go solo, banking on fewer distractions and greater contact with the locals. Others, however, point out that travelling alone can be intimidating, especially for first timers.

A good compromise is to start off by establishing some kind of base, maybe a few weeks at a work camp or kibbutz, where you can adjust to abnormal surroundings, and meet and join up with like-minded people.

Women travellers tend to be seen as a special group, to be bombarded with warnings of "dangers", and lists of basic dress codes and behaviour. The general consensus is that the risks are exaggerated.

Next on the checklist is money. Don't be too paranoid about being ripped off: the

difference is usually negligible when translated into sterling. The more serious risk is that you just won't take enough.

The most angst-ridden issue for travellers is what not to take. "Travel incredibly light," says Tim Severin, the expedition leader and writer. Items to take include: torch; antiseptic; sensible shoes; jacket; Visa card; scissors or penknife; photocopies of passport, tickets and insurance; all-size sink plug; sarong; and camera bag. Don't take: too many clothes; the wrong clothes (jeans are heavy and difficult to wash); and a six-month supply of shampoo and suntan lotion. Asia does have chemist shops.

LUCY BERRINGTON

● Austral Travel 071-734 7755; Campus Travel 071-720 8111; Kivori 0206 742 888; STA Travel 071-237 9062; Top Deck 071-244 8641; Trailfinders 071-938 3939; Travelbag 071-497 0515

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ROYAL VIKING

BEYOND BEAR ISLAND

A 14 DAY EXPLORATION CRUISE TO SPITZBERGEN 17-30 June 1995

Although we will set sail with a planned schedule, experience has shown us over the years that in order to achieve the most exciting expedition cruise, it may be advantageous to change the day's schedule following a local reconnaissance, a change in weather or perhaps a polar bear or whale sighting. Nowhere is this policy more likely to bring rewards than in the Arctic where nature in its purest form will reveal highlights after unexpected highlights.

Of course the scenery is stunning but for most the striking aspect will be the extraordinary flora and fauna, particularly beyond the Arctic Circle where the tundra suddenly bursts into vivid colour. Wildlife comes out of its otherwise austere landscape and seabird colonies crowd onto narrow ledges such as on the cliffs of Bear Island.

As we venture further north to Spitzbergen we will search for reindeer, fox, walrus, and the most majestic of all Arctic inhabitants the Polar Bear. Ice conditions will dictate how far up the west coast of Spitzbergen we might sail but with our four days of exploration we should achieve much in this area which is nothing short of spectacular.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Edinburgh (Leith) Embark on the Alla Tarasova in the late afternoon and sail out into the Firth of Forth.

DAY 2 At sea

DAY 3 Fair Isle. Spend the morning on Fair Isle visiting the Bird Observatory and walking perhaps meeting some of the 50 or so islanders. Sail during lunch to Shetland and the port of Lerwick on South Mainland. Visit Jarlshof and see the remains of 3000 years of settlement from the Stone Age, through the Bronze and Iron Ages to Viking times.

DAYS 4 & 5 At sea

DAY 6 Bear Island. Lofotens. On the outer limits of the Lofotens we will find the Bear group, a wild area and excellent for bird spotting, puffins, black guillemots and Kittiwakes are particularly plentiful. In the morning visit the village on Bear, the old church is worth seeing. In the afternoon with the aid of our Zodiacs we will visit the bird sanctuary on Vaeroy Island.

DAY 7 Reine, Lofoten Islands. Here in the heart of the Lofotens we will find breathtakingly beautiful fjords and fairytale like villages such as Reine. Above we will visit the Fishing Museum in nearby So and also see "Bird Mountain". The remainder of the day will be spent sailing past the lovely scenery.

DAY 8 Tromsø. Spend the morning in the largest town in the Arctic visiting its fine Arctic Museum and 19th century cathedral. Sail during lunch to Fagloy on Bird Island, suitably named nesting site for thousands of Puffins. Weather permitting we will sail close to sheer-sided islands for observation.

DAY 9 Bear Island. Although probably known to the Vikings, Bear Island was officially discovered by Willem Barrens in 1596 when searching for the North East passage for a trade route to China. This isolated, often mist shrouded remote island is home to a multitude of fulmars, Kittiwakes, guillemots and gulls. Going ashore by Zodiac we will have the chance for short walks among the lovely Arctic flowers.

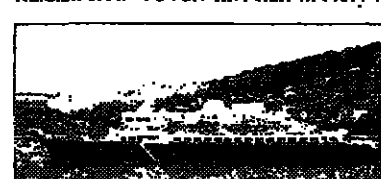
DAYS 10, 11, 12 & 13 Spitzbergen. Here only 600 miles from the North Pole we shall sail the deep

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Following a major refit in 1992 the MS Alla Tarasova offers good levels of comfort for 80 passengers. All cabins have outside views and are well furnished with private shower and toilet.

The main lounge and music room is used for lectures by our guest speakers and expedition staff. In addition there is a lounge bar, library, small lecture hall with video facilities and a single sitting restaurant. An international caterer in Vienna is responsible for provisioning and our own chefs prepare good quality meals of a hearty nature.

Dress on board will be informal. The vessel is owned and operated by the Murmansk Shipping Company and the Russian crew of 80 are first class in every way.



fjords enjoying the majestic beauty of the deeply indented coastline. Even in mid summer massive sheets of ice will still cover much of the land and on our long ashore we will go in search of Arctic foxes, numerous bird species, walrus, seals, polar bears and reindeer as well as the fascinating Arctic flora.

DAY 14 Spitzbergen - London. Disembark and return to London via Tromsø on Longyearbren on Spitzbergen with Scandinavian Airlines.

PRICES PER PERSON

4 berth	Lower deck	£1895
3 berth	Lower deck	£2295
2 berth Grade 1	Lower deck	£2595
2 berth Grade 2	Lower deck	£2695
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2 berth Grade 3	Main deck	£2830
2 berth Grade 4	Main deck	£2995
2 berth Suite	Upper deck	£3430
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Single	Main deck	£3300

Prices subject to surcharge

Price includes Economy air travel, 13 nights aboard the Alla Tarasova on full board, shore excursions, landing fees, local taxes, services of Expedition Staff and Guest Speaker.

Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes, tip to ship's crew.

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NORTH AMERICA: Part five of *The Times* weekly guide to the leading ski resorts around the world

American dream skiing

More skiers go to North America than to any other continent. The future of quality skiing is in the snow. The snow is better, snowmaking is ubiquitous, the lifts are faster, the queue management is a marvel of courtesy and efficiency. In terms of avalanches and collisions, and for children, America is miles safer.

Not everybody can afford to go to North America, and it takes a long time to get there, but ten hours in the air can be less stressful than four hours on a Saturday afternoon fighting for baggage in Geneva airport, followed by a three to five-hour coach transfer.

Lift tickets in the US are the most expensive in the world, but an analysis of six-day lift-pass prices in Austria and Canada indicates an average of £107 for Austria, and no more than £109 for Canada's top tickets.

European resorts are barred from developing new terrain and installing new lifts, harassed by environmental lobby groups and hemmed in by narrow valley walls. North America, on the other hand, is planning not only new trails but entirely new mountains.

CANADA

Banff/Lake Louise, Alberta

LAKE Louise is Canada's largest skiing area, only 40 minutes by shuttle bus from Banff. The scenery in this sector of the Canadian Rockies puts Colorado to shame. Big horn sheep lick salt off the highway, and elk browse right outside hotel doors.

Hotels are as impressive as the peaks. Banff Springs is an 850-room monument to "Scottish baronial" style. Chateau Lake Louise, only somewhat less mammoth, sits along the lake looking out at glaciers hanging down black rock

faces. The resorts of Mystic Ridge (long, steep bumps) and Sunshine (skiing on the continental divide in guaranteed natural snow) share a ski pass with Lake Louise.

Whistler, British Columbia

TWO lift companies at Whistler Resort share a dual mountain ski pass. Whistler, the mountain first developed, has an old-fashioned feel. Blackcomb is state-of-the-art lifts and grooming. Respectively, Blackcomb and Whistler have the longest vertical drops in North America. Whistler Village links the two mountain-lift networks. Car-free and congenial, its European ambience is deliberate. The resort is spoilt for choice with elegant hotels such as the Chateau Whistler, not to mention the best sushi bars this side of the Pacific.

AMERICA

Aspen, Colorado

ASPEN has a reputation as a snobby, jet-set resort with a Lear in every corral. In fact, it is the most attractive ski town in the world, with more genuine "culture" and a higher average IQ than any American city. Aspen has an opera house, several classical music radio stations, cafe bookshops which stay open until midnight, and a taxi driver who does cabaret in his cab. An Aspen lift ticket covers four resorts. Snowmass, 12 miles down the road, is an enormous intermediate paradise, with exceptional facilities for children. Tiehack is a super-easy beginner area. Aspen Highlands, a "cult" area for the hard core, has two new chairlifts. Aspen itself is a perfect ski mountain, a mix of both technical challenge and scenery — all too often, however, admired by all too many.

Vail, Colorado

VAIL has evolved customer satisfaction into an art form. The village is car-free, with efficient, free buses. The slopes are groomed impeccably and the multitudinous chairlifts are high speed. Maybe it is the clientele who lack soul. The Back Bowls of Vail are ungroomed terrain which salvage the resort's skiing cred. On the same lift pass is the ultra-groomed intermediate paradise of Beaver Creek. There is nowhere better for children.

Squaw Valley, California

WHERE else in the world can a skier stroll down to the docks in the morning and commute to the slopes in a paddle-wheel steamer across Lake Tahoe? The skiing is extensive, acres of groomed runs and killer chutes too. As for lift queues: wait longer than ten minutes and a full refund is issued on the spot. There is no real residential centre at Squaw, which means shutting back to the neon, gambling and night-time entertainment of the Tahoe towns.

Jackson Hole, Wyoming

JACKSON is a cowboy town where Colorado dudes are considered sissies. Same goes for the skiing. Although Jackson Hole, the ski area and resort complex, is only 12 miles from downtown Jackson, the trip by shuttle bus can take an hour. Car hire is inexpensive in America and an excuse to drive 40 miles over John Ford Western countryside to Grand Targhee, a gem of a family resort where the powder snow is even deeper than at Jackson Hole. There is no place better to shop for boots or pearl-handled .45s.



Sun Valley, Idaho

THE difficulty of access to the remote Sawtooth mountains of southern Idaho keeps the numbers down. Six high-speed chairlifts have recently been added, and this year 54 acres of new skiing terrain allow Sun Valley to boast "more vertical skiing in less

time than at any resort in North America". Sun Valley is also one of the most attractive resorts for non-skiers.

Taos, New Mexico

TAOS is high in Pueblo Indian country, with a decorative style and an ethos which is unique in America. The skiing is tough, the clientele unusual-

ly European. Swiss founder Ernie Blake used to hide flasks of spirits in caches around the pistes, and closed the resort at lunchtime so everyone could eat together at big picnic tables. His attitudes prevail, not least at the ski school, the best in North America.

DOUG SAGER
Next week: Scandinavia, Spain and Japan

Smooth US operators

IN THIS survey of tour operators, prices include flights, air transfers within North America, ground transfers and accommodation. Meals are not included in North American price packages unless otherwise stated. Ski passes, ski hire and insurance can be arranged by tour operators, but are not included in package prices. The price range indicated is for the least expensive week in January and the most expensive week in February.

● Powder Byrnes (071-223 0601, fax 071-223 1491). Canadian ex-racers Ken Read and Dave Irwin have teamed up with Britain's former downhill champion Konrad Bartelski to produce the best introduction to Canada on the market. Business-class flights, a day out helicopter skiing, three days Master Class lessons in the Irwin clinic, all ski passes, meals, hotel accommodation and transfers around the Banff/Lake Louise resorts for ten days, from £1,510. A 12-day programme including Whistler starts at £1,734.

● Ski Scott Dunn (081-767 0202, fax 081-767 2026). With only 150 skiers per season in its only American destination, Scott Dunn is nonetheless the

most highly regarded operator in Jackson Hole, with the most comprehensive on-ground services. From £685 to £715.

● Frontier Ski (071-839 1627, fax 071-839 5761). This small firm with only 400 clients is pioneering little-known Canadian resorts Silver Star, Panorama and Big White — all worth exploration. But most Frontier clients still prefer Whistler. From £545 (hotel room with car hire) to £809.

● Crystal (081-399 5144, fax 081-399 6378). Far and away the major player in North America, Crystal takes 10,000 skiers to 15 American and three Canadian resorts. From £227 (hotel room sleeping four) in Banff to £795 in the Aspen Club Lodge in Aspen.

● Virgin Ski (0293 61781, fax 0293 536957). Non-stop flights to Los Angeles with connections to the Lake Tahoe resorts and Mammoth have attracted 3,500 skiers to Virgin. From £399 to £649.

● Ski the American Dream (081-552 1201, fax 081-552 7726). With 20 North American resorts on both coasts, carries around 3,000 skiers to the US and 1,000 to Canada. From £520 to £1,300.

D.S.

Answers from page 27

ASTRAGAL

(b) In Architecture, a small moulding of semicircular section, sometimes plain, sometimes carved with leaves or cut into beads, placed round the top or bottom of columns, and used to separate the different parts of the architrave in ornamental establishments. From the Greek astragalos, the knucklebone, used for dicing. "The ivory when very small becomes an astragalus."

CURRAWONG

(a) The native name in Australia for a bird of the genus *Syrigma*, from the Aboriginal name. "Birds of the other genus, *Syrigma*, are variously known as bell-mongers or black-mongers, as well as by the Aboriginal name of 'currawong' in New South Wales and Queensland."

DOCIMASY

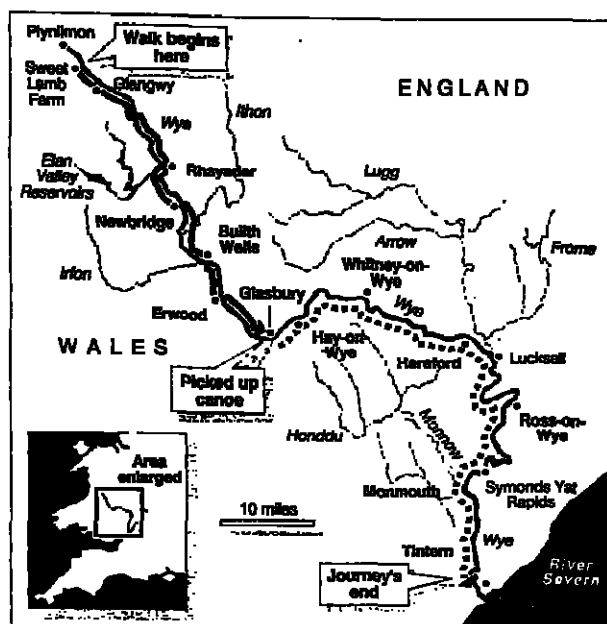
(a) The art or practice of assaying metallic ores, i.e. of separating the metallic substances from foreign admixtures, and determining the nature and quantity of constituent metals; also the art of ascertaining the properties and purities of drugs. From the Greek *dokimasia* examination, the word of *dokimazo* to examine. "Carbon can be of no consequence in humid docimasy."

DOSSIL

(a) A plug for a barrel, a spigot also a plug of flint or rag for stopping a wound, a pledge. From the medieval Latin *doctulus* the diminutive of *dux*, a little leader. "I dreamed the Bone with Dossile dyle is a new-haid Egg."

WALES: Explore the length of the river Wye, from its source in the mountains to its meeting with the Severn

Down the long and winding Wye



The local people in Rhayader say those who put their feet in the Bwgy will come back. For centuries they have called the Wye the "Bwgy". Others tell how the river can change your life, just by looking at it.

My husband, Clive, and I had always wanted to explore the length of the river, from its source in the Plynlimon mountains in mid Wales, to its meeting point with the Severn Estuary 154 miles downstream at Chepstow.

The source of the Wye was a gentle little spring, bubbling from a grey, rocky grotto. A few feet down the river's life had already spread into brilliant green patches of moss and reed. We had heard the river's source was "undistinguished"; but I thought its very gentleness gave it a sense of drama.

Mayfly danced between rain squalls that seemed heavier than the stream beneath them as we made our way downwards, but we saw no fish. Instead it was we who kept slipping into the water. The little silver cascades of the first mile of the Wye have lethally slippery rocks and spongy banks that swallow your boots.

The river led us from the mountains, through forestry and farms, past a liaison with its tributary, the Tareg, to Glangwy. My abiding memories are of becoming lost with our heavy packs, among fields captured within barbed-wire fences; and the wonderful contrast of the friendliest of farmers along the way, who refilled our waterbottles and painstakingly directed us to deviations through their land.

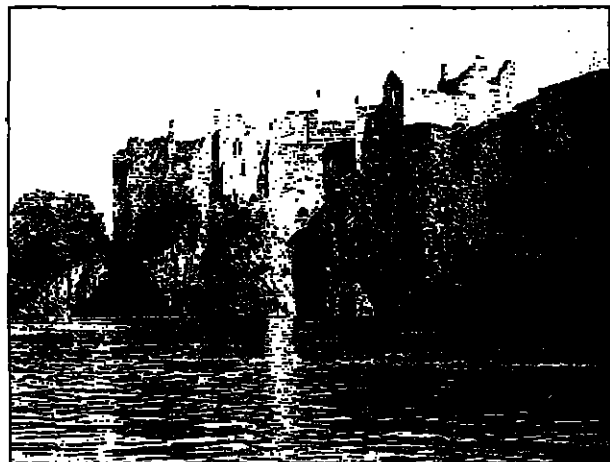
We stopped at Glangwy farm and a small campsite. Down a short path through the woods was a lavatory and washroom, decorated with pamphlets of local happenings and a nest in the corner where a pair of sparrows were hatching their eggs.

Llangurig is the highest village in Wales, with its own full-time Post Office and foodstore. In the sixth century St Curig strode across the Plynlimon Pass to build its riverside church. We crossed a sturdy bridge to walk along the narrow un-numbered road that would become a path along the way. The river ran

fat and then slow, like an old-fashioned dance, moving us between the greatest solitude, and vivid human encounter. "You can forget *One Man and His Dog!*" announced Veronica Morgan, after she and her husband, Derek, had invited us to camp on their idyllic farm by the Wye. They run 800 sheep on 10,000 acres of common hillside land where they and their neighbours were grazing rights. "Every farmer around here has at least six dogs."

At Nanneth Fawr on the way to Rhayader we met André Gallagher, whose farm-house self-catering accommodation has won a Prince of Wales Award. It is also a working farm with 600 Radnor ewes on the hills.

We consumed Guinness and exquisite steak and kidney pie at the 14th-century Triangle Inn, once patronised by monks from Strata Florida, drovers, and judges visiting to preside over the town's Assize Court. The court was removed



The final lap, as the Wye sweeps past Chepstow castle

after one of the judges was murdered on his way to church.

In Rhayader, a local mountain bike hire shop advertised "Dirty Weekends" up steep trails. Pony trekking and fishing were also available; and a choice between campsites or cosy bed and breakfasts.

From here also began the official Wye Walk that runs all the way to Chepstow, but was going to take us as far as Glasbury to become united with our canoe.

The history of the Wye is written on its riverbed. At places where the river was

fordable, towns and villages grew up; and lives were changed for ever.

Launching our borrowed canoe from above Glasbury Bridge, we set off to paddle the hundred miles of navigable river that winds its way to Chepstow: past Hay-on-Wye, the pretty town of books declared by King Richard de Booth to be his independent kingdom; past the ruins of Clifford castle and over the border between England and Wales to Whitney Toll Bridge,

shallows and rapids with rocks seeking to bite the canoe, or long green weed stretching underwater.

Hereford seemed overwhelmingly large as we arrived. We sat on the bank to eat fish and chips and then paddled on past Hampton Bishop to Holme Lacey Bridge. Apples bobbed round the edges of the river at Lucksall campsite, where we stayed. From here on, there were also more landing places, pubs and signs of human recreation, with anglers along the way and occasionally the flurry of a river raft.

Enchanting Goodrich castle was reflected several times next morning as we wove our way past banks spread with wild flowers, gardens of the dwellings of water rats or voles. It was easy to see why the walk between Hay and Chepstow is only 75 miles long, whereas by canoe it is nearer a hundred.

We stayed at the immaculate hut of George Woodward, auxiliary bailiff and dedicated gillie for a stretch of the river near Welsh Bicknor. We felt privileged to stay in the gillie hut, learning about the lives of salmon, who can voyage as far as the Arctic before returning to their river to spawn; and later went out, under a hunter's moon, to watch the National River Association workers patrolling the river for poachers.

From Welsh Bicknor, we negotiated rapids at Symonds Yat. And by lunchtime we were eating "Death by Chocolate Cake" at The Boat Inn, Redbrook, where the last recorded act of piracy on the river Wye took place. The inn's speciality gave us the energy to haul the canoe up 35ft of mud bank at Tintern, where the



The author, Rosie Swale, and her husband, Clive, paddle their borrowed canoe at Brock weir near Tintern, close to the end of their 154-mile journey from the river's source

How to follow the river Wye

Wordsworth's verses on Tintern seemed less appropriate at the time than stories of how, from the area nearby called Botany Bay, convicts were given a last chance to bargain for their freedom before being shipped in chains to Van Diemen's Land. Our struggle was worth it. We were made welcome in our muddy clothes at The Tintern Anchor and afterwards were permitted to pitch our tent on the village green.

After a hard effort against wind and tide, we arrived the next day, past looming cliffs and the castle, at Chepstow. Our 154-mile walk and paddle had taken us just two and a half weeks.

ROSIE SWALE

- Monmouth Canoe and Activity Centre, Old Dixon Road, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 3DP (0600 713461/716083) Canadian canoe hire from £11.50 per half-day to £75 a week
- Wye Valley Canoe Centre, The Post Office, Glasbury-on-Wye, Hereford HR3 5NP (0497 847213) Canoe hire £16 per day
- Both centres will collect from most points on the river and offer full instruction and equipment.
- "Dirty Weekend" Mountain Bike Holidays, East Street, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5DN (0597 811343/810585) Guided bike weekends £96; hire £10 to £16 per day
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- Overland Pony Trekking, Dyffryn Farm, Rhayader Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 6NP (0597 810402) Full day £15, half day £9
- Tourist Information Centres Builth Wells (0982 553307); Chepstow (0291 623772); Hay-on-Wye (0497 820144); Monmouth (0600 713899); Rhayader (0597 810591); Ross (0989 62768)

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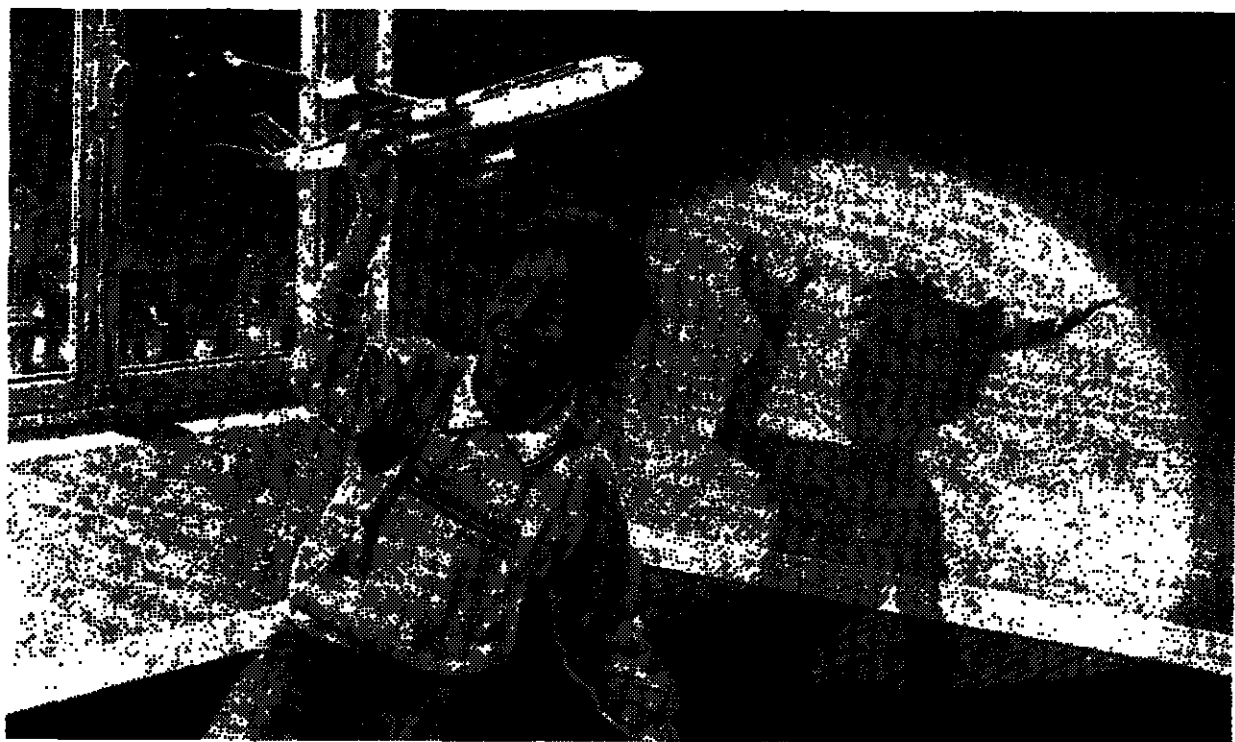
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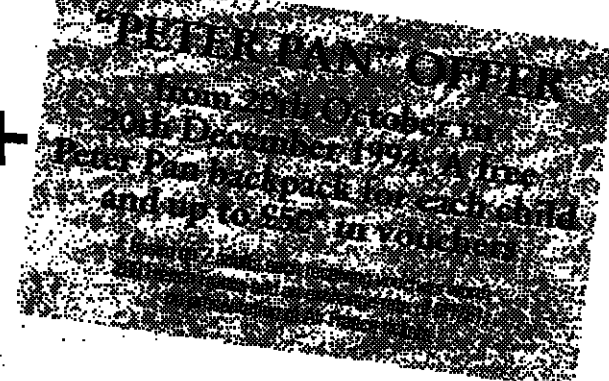
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GAMES

27

by Raymond Keene

THE NEW award system for readers who write in with queries and/or games has proved most popular, with well-informed communications and comments from readers pouring in at the rate of 60 per week.

Best games and queries from Times readers are welcomed for possible publication in this column. Please send your contributions to: Raymond Keene, c/o Keene on Chess, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. All contributions should be typed and in the standard algebraic form as used by The Times.

Any reader who submits a game or a chess query to me will automatically receive one free copy of the British Chess Magazine. Furthermore, any games and queries from readers which I deem of sufficient quality or interest to merit publication in The Times, will receive a six-month complimentary subscription to the British Chess Magazine.

This week's winners of a six-month subscription is Arthur Freeman. The game he has submitted was played in this year's Lloyds Bank Masters tournament and features exciting rival attacks on opposite wings. Ultimately, Black crashes through first. The notes to the game are based on those supplied by the winner.

White: M. Wagner
Black: Arthur Freeman
Lloyds Bank, London, 1994
Centre Closes: Defence

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6
3. d4 Nxd4 4. Qd3 Nf5
5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Qc2 Nf6
7. Qd3 Nc6 8. Qc2 Nf6
9. Nc3 Nc6 10. Qd3 Nf6
11. Qc2 Nf6 12. Qd3 Nc6
13. Qc2 Nf6 14. Qd3 Nc6
15. Qc2 Nf6 16. Qd3 Nc6
17. Qc2 Nf6 18. Qd3 Nc6
19. Qc2 Nf6 20. Qd3 Nc6
21. Qc2 Nf6 22. Qd3 Nc6
23. Qc2 Nf6 24. Qd3 Nc6
25. Qc2 Nf6 26. Qd3 Nc6
27. Qc2 Nf6 28. Qd3 Nc6
29. Qc2 Nf6 30. Qd3 Nc6
31. Qc2 Nf6 32. Qd3 Nc6
33. Qc2 Nf6 34. Qd3 Nc6
35. Qc2 Nf6 36. Qd3 Nc6
37. Qc2 Nf6 38. Qd3 Nc6
39. Qc2 Nf6 40. Qd3 Nc6
41. Qc2 Nf6 42. Qd3 Nc6
43. Qc2 Nf6 44. Qd3 Nc6
45. Qc2 Nf6 46. Qd3 Nc6
47. Qc2 Nf6 48. Qd3 Nc6
49. Qc2 Nf6 50. Qd3 Nc6
51. Qc2 Nf6 52. Qd3 Nc6
53. Qc2 Nf6 54. Qd3 Nc6
55. Qc2 Nf6 56. Qd3 Nc6
57. Qc2 Nf6 58. Qd3 Nc6
59. Qc2 Nf6 60. Qd3 Nc6

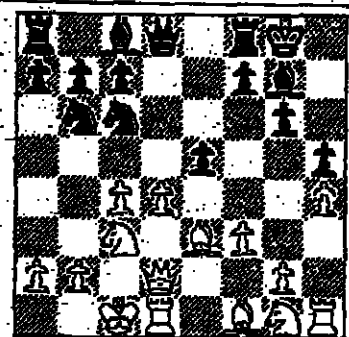
Otherwise Black is overrun.

Next week, readers' questions answered. Watch out, your question may be amongst those published.

All this week's positions are taken from Attack with Mikhail Tal, published by Cadogan. This position is from the game Dittman-Balanel, Erfurt 1955. White has invaded the black position, but needs to find a killer blow to finish the game. What did he play?

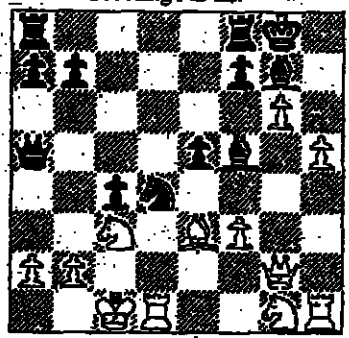
Send your answers on a postcard to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1... Qxc3+



The books say "counter flank attack with central counter-attack", and hope you aren't mated first.

Necessity is the mother of invention: if 12... bxc4 13 h5.



After long thought, but this loses quickly. Black has two threats in this position. One is 18... Qxa2 19 Nxa2 Nb3 checkmate. The other is 18... Nb3+, followed by... Qa1+ and... Qxb2+ winning the white queen.

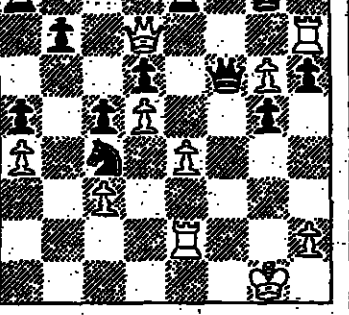
Forced as if 21 Qxb2 Qe1 is mate.

If 22 Kd2 Qc3+ and... Qe1+.

22... Qc1+ 23 Kd2 Qc2+ 24 Kd1 Qc2. White resigns.

Next week, readers' questions answered. Watch out, your question may be amongst those published.

Last week's winners are: A Mercedo, Hornchurch, Essex; N Watson, Bournemouth, Dorset; M Reynolds, London NW10.



READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon caption 26, Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, October 12.



"But grandma, the IVF clinic did warn you that you could have twins."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (printed above) was submitted by Mrs J.M. Stevens of Stoke Bishop, Bristol

PUNCHLINE



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THE FIRST CARTOON ABOVE IS BY AN UNIDENTIFIED ARTIST. IF YOU WANT TO SUBMIT A CARTOON, PLEASE SEND IT TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES, 1 PENNINGTON STREET, LONDON E1 9XN.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ASTRAGAL
a. A female astronaut.
b. A semi-circular moulding.
c. Near's-foot oil.

CURRAWONG
a. Landslip debris.
b. A Javanese musical instrument.
c. An Australian bird.

DOCIMASY
a. Examination of ores.
b. A 13th-century heresy.
c. A rallentando.

DOSSIL
a. A plug.
b. Temporary shelter.
c. To scavenge on your knees.

Answers on page 22

COMPUTER GAMES

MICROPROSE'S Formula One Grand Prix has more than enough good things going for it to warrant Mr Alan Stillwell's loyal support. Mr Stillwell, of Hayes, Middlesex, reviewed the game as his entry to our Cyberspace Nine competition and his bid to win from us the latest in armchair golfing.

"It may be getting a little long in the tooth now but the game is still a classic," he oozed about F1GP. "While offering a range of pre-race options — such as wing settings, tyre choice and brake balance — it has avoided the trap of unrealistic finance control and messy adulteration of the race circuits with the rocks, roadworks and passing trucks which make the other race games seem as accurate as a dandelion clock."

Practice and race lengths can be set to suit all tastes and "the outside views are great fun". Finally, he added: "The sheer accuracy of the circuits provides a record of Grand Prix racing before the sport was made safer. Best of all, there's not a sniff of Murray bloody Walker!"

Another entry, from Mr S. Lelliot of Chatham, Kent, enthused about Accolade's Hardball III although he harbours some reservations. This version of baseball, for the Sega Mega Drive, boots up a fairly simple game to start with but the skill comes, according to Mr Lelliot, in incorporating features to maintain long-term interest and decoding reams of statistics to find out what you are doing wrong, or right.

He added: "Hardball's graphics are a bit disappointing. Fielding players are not very distinctive and, most frustratingly, catches are not always clear at first. Gameplay also scores low, due to the difficulty in hitting the ball."

"Even when that's achieved, it's often hard to direct the ball away from the fielders." Despite these points, he remains a Hardball III fan, poring for hours over statistics dissecting his games.

And so to our three winners of Cyberspace Nine. They are: Mr Stillwell, of Hayes, Middlesex; Mr S Lelliot of Chatham, Kent; and Mr Keith Norion of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, whose review appeared in last week's column.

Each of our winners receives one of Innova's new hi-tech Tee V Golf clubs, worth £150 each, plus a copy of Electronic Arts' latest excellent golfing title, PGA European Tour for the Sega Mega Drive.

Innova's revolutionary sawn-off club is just 28 inches long but designed to "have the swing feel of a fully-extended club". A base transmitter and red guide light allow real-time swings making electronic whooshing noises to prompt computer progress around animated courses. The club is ingenious but likely to be appreciated by the more experienced golfers out there who know the difference between a wood and a putter.

PGA European Tour includes 60 pros, five European courses, clean graphics and even the electronic chirping birds are surprisingly uplifting.

Congratulations to our winners, commiserations to our losers and, to leave Britain on an upbeat note for the next seven days, Cyberspace Ten is launched when next we meet. Full details then in next week's Computer Games in Weekend.

BRIDGE

by Albert Dormer

BEFORE DISCLOSING my theme, I offer three problems. In the first you are South.

1)

♠ 10 8 7 5			
♥ 7 5 2			
♦ A 5			
♣ A J 10 2			

2)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

3)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

4)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

5)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

6)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

7)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

8)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

9)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

10)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

11)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

12)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

13)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

14)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

15)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

16)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

17)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

18)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

19)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

20)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

21)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

22)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

23)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

24)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

25)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

26)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

27)

♠ 10 8 3			
♥ K 9			
♦ K 8 5 4			
♣ A J 9 4			

another trump come next. East following with the jack on the second round. In with the king, what do you return?

Solutions

The link between the three problems is that each involves the element of concealment.

For the declarer it should be a routine practice to play the cards in such a way as to keep opponents in the dark as much as possible, especially when cashing winners.

1) In the first problem, South intends to play off the clubs. He hopes to find the defender who has the outstanding trump — presumably East — with three or more clubs. A heart from hand will then go on the fourth club and it will not matter whether this trick is ruffed or not.

However, as the cards lie, East can ruff the third club and take a heart and a diamond to defeat the contract. If you play clubs in straightforward fashion he will surely do so, but you can make things more difficult by first cashing the king, then leading small to the ace, then the jack from dummy.

East now has to allow for the possibility that West has the queen, and that you intend to take the ruffing finesse, having started with K-x doubleton. If East fails to ruff, then, after winning with the queen you can cross to the ♠A and lead the fourth club.

2) Defenders have fewer opportunities for concealment than declarer. This deal, however, presents an exception.

Most players, as West, on taking their trump winner, will exit with a safe heart. East shows out on this trick and it will no longer be possible for a competent declarer to go wrong when playing the diamond combination. He will know that West started with three trumps and five hearts, and he can easily find out that West had two or more clubs.

South will therefore know that West cannot have as many as four diamonds and he will play to expose the finesse against East's jack.

Therefore West, when in with the trump winner, should exit with a club, leaving South in doubt as to the suit lengths.

3) West must play a low heart, presenting South with an immediate guess. If instead West exits with a club, South will force out the ♠A and on finding West with this card will be able to work out that West cannot have the ♠A: he will have shown up with the ♠A and the ♠K, and is marked with the ♠Q from the play to the first trick. South will therefore surely take the winning play in hearts if West leads one when in with the ♠A.

Next week I hope to present readers with some problems from the world championships in Albuquerque, where I had an interesting game with Alan Hiron in the Seniors final.

ment. match-round come. ring of career do, his and the ric ad in the

car ago, at match the first he have. He has led in the — Friday, a recent y Colin y came of ass golfer, a himself, victory over calm and nally disapp on his s week.

to be posi said. "Any o I've beaten have to be quite happy me into this fifth seed and. I didn't do gainst Eric, y well, but I ay from bere appy." r with tongue ys was a quan from the who has in the out of press n beaten, who ut a tongue- pless spectat ing more crim- ing his nose at onent. Monty 4 on this day, loderate more may it last.

les

its yesterday

fferen

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3274: "Old -----", by Psyche

THE 9 unclued lights are thematically linked. The 21 clues marked with an asterisk are all Printers' Devilry, ie a hidden word has been removed, the gap closed and liberties sometimes taken with punctuation and/or spacing, eg "At the House of Commons Sports Day the Chief whipped the trophies." Solution — RESENT: ie "At the House of Commons Sports Day the Chief Whip PRESENTED the trophies." The remaining 21 clues lead to anagrams of the word (in one case a prefix) to be entered and each contains one superfluous word which is a definition of one of the Printers' Devilry solutions.

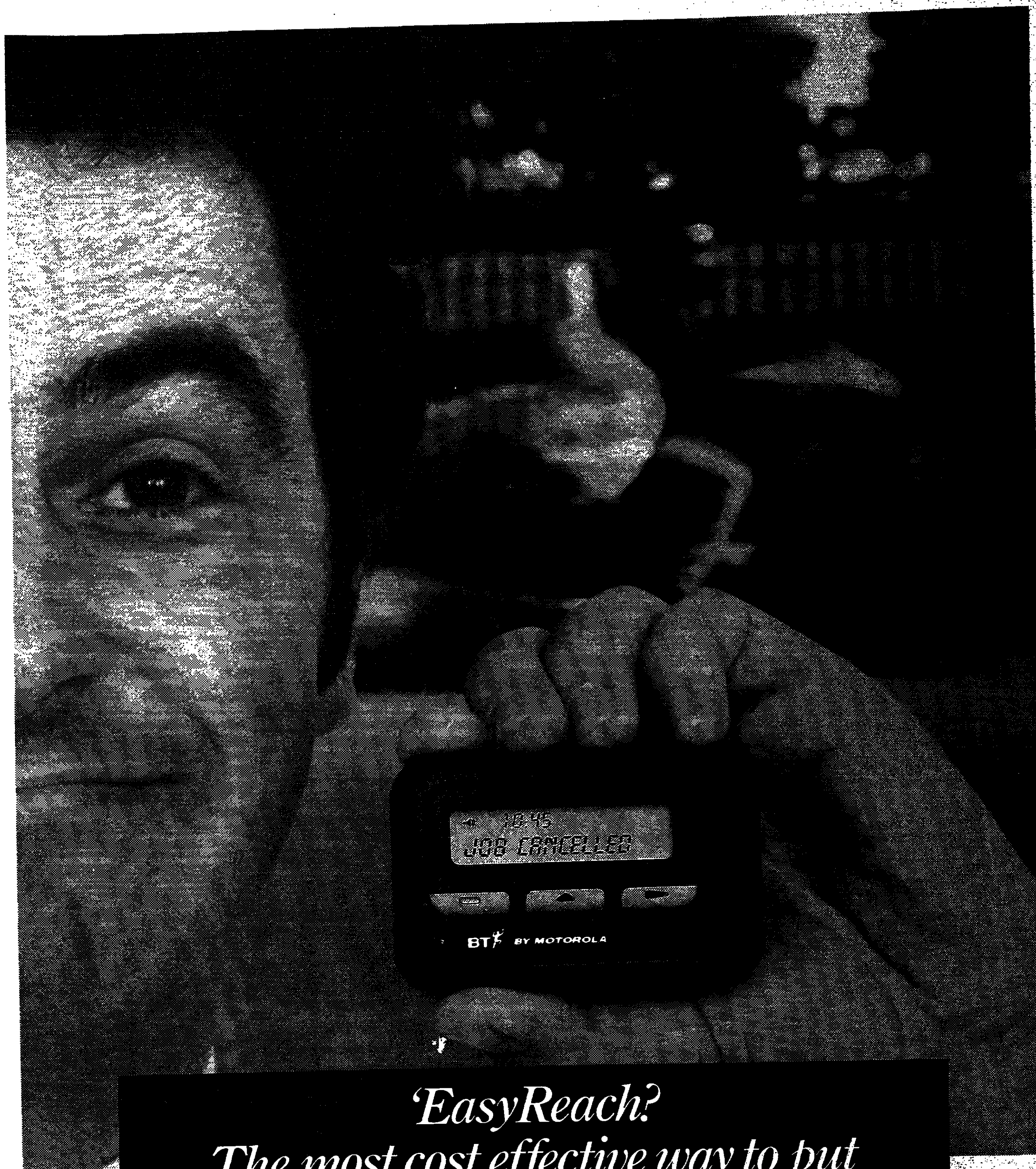
ACROSS
1 (9)
11* "Compared to Everest, Snowdon, same again!" she scoffed (7)
12 (5)
14* To match her decor she chose white anta, irises and other wild flowers (7)
15* "I love you, bad G I Joe!" (5)
16* Panic search made by travelling company having lost one vehicle in Kent (5)
17* Did Argonauts pray to sea-gods, say, in gold quest? (7)
19* Novice horse I captured in first three in trou-de-loup (4)
21 Shrewd Scots chief (4)
23 Fish thrashes around middle of Prussian punt (7)
27* Neglected one's mental development? Study in G atones mindfully (4-9)
30* Athrocyle found in blood of Cleopatra's slayer (7)
33 Reduce state limit (4)
36 Conclusions of disagreement over inheritance make counterfeits peddle (4)
40* Houses ad from landlords (7)
42* A proper builder is a former of bricks (5)
43* Woman's promoted Head of Tribunal in Naval Affairs (7)
44 Supernatural master forces ship on ridge of sand (5)
45* In reply to every question, Inca, the drawers come from the Archbishop (7)

DOWN
1 (7)
2* Get smart and sup before important meeting (5)
3* Our tom-cat's hurt its paw: I heard it washing (5)
4 (5)
5 Female rodent, seal-like, tailless, to be seen on cricket-field (3,3)
6 (3)
7* "Lords smoke purer cigarettes, so there!" snarls fat (7)
8* Sign by boat-like reads "Get your cake there" (6)
9* Don't call a man Chubby even if he is a large and stupid Chinaman (5)
10 I'm looking for a member of a rich singing group (6)
13* Slowing down, herd in his galloping horses (4)
15* Prince Albert Medal one gets right after discharge (4)
20 She-goat, turning round, oddly selected run-ins for kicks (4)
22* Ways the piper calls the tune (3)
23 Safe store in old City in Isle of Thanet (4)
25 English stars follow, overacting for Scottish house (4)
26 Narcotic drink appearing in Kalevala (3)
28 Arranger includes long interval for composer (7)
29 Confine old Russian horses in sailor's round vessel (7)
30 Local dromes fled in alcohol-induced intellectual disorder (6)
31* "The cab is really haunted, or is the ghostly Fiat? Hah, who knows!" (6)
32 Piquancy endured, served with a scold eg in concoction of lasagne tedesca (6)
34 Valley's waste left in Shetland bay (4)
35* Is the gangster's main companion always looking in the mirror? (5)
37* T hero managed 1st Century British settlements with fire and sword (5)
38 Claim hero, rejecting alternate characters, eyes small part (5)
39* Aid the Priest after each prayer (5)
43* Instruction to fanatics, "Crib every popular tune for every instrument!" (3)

ACROSS
1 Dull yellow, expert, devotee (4)
4 Potato spirit (8)
6 Wrongly-called item (8)
9 Basin: drive into the ground (4)
10 One attributing the worst motives (5)
11 Birds' feathers (7)
13 Source of danger (6)
15 Classification; sailor (6)
18 Wife-poisoning doctor (7)
20 Full of substance (5)
23 Entirely occupy (4)
24 Drink before meal (8)
25 Severe cold spell (6-2)
26 Perturbation in current (4)
DOWN
2 Togetherness; a Mitford (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 286
ACROSS: 1 Call it a day 7 Epithet 8 Let go 10 Overrun 11 Onset 12 Doodle 13 Adhere 17 Post 18 Impasto 21 Pri- 22 Skittle 23 Grey matter
DOWN: 1 Clive 2 Lehar 3 Intent 4 All told 5 Artiste 6 Be- 7 a pup 9 On the ropes 13 Dossier 14 Liturgy 16 Mis- 18 Point 20 Sarg

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